ESSAY

ON THE

TRADE, COMMERCE, and MANUFACTURES

OF

SCOTLAND.

BY

DAVID LOCH of Over Carnbie,
Merchant in Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH:

Printed for the AUTHOR, and sold by all the BOOKSELLERS in Town and Country.

M, DCC, LXXV.

[*Price Three Shillings.*]

30
63
NOV

To His Grace

HENRY Duke of Buccleugh,

Earl of Dalkeith,

Earl of Doncaster, &c. &c.

My Lord Duke,

THE Countenance and Protection ſhewn by your Grace, to the improvements of the Manufactures and Commerce of your Country, have juſtly endeared you to the affections of all the good people in Scotland; and pointed you out as the Patron of the following work, which was undertaken entirely with the view of promoting theſe deſirable objects.

The condeſcenſion and affability with which you permitted your name to be made uſe of upon this occaſion, I look upon as the higheſt honour I could poſſibly receive, and affords the moſt flattering hopes, that, while ſuch diſtinguiſhed Perſonages as your Grace, are not aſhamed to ſtand forth the avowed Friends of the Fabric of Scotland, its Manufactures and Commerce can ſcarce fail of ſoon arriving at a pitch of perfection and luſtre hitherto unknown.

I have upon many occaſions acknowledged my want of abilities as a writer. This

This ſmall tract will convince your Grace how much occaſion I had to do ſo; but, I am afraid, will afford a bad apology for preſuming ſo far upon your known Goodneſs of Heart, as to ſolicit you to be its Patron.

My motives for it, however, I have already hinted at, and ſhall conclude this addreſs, by aſſuring your Grace, that I never ſo much regretted the want of thoſe abilities, as I do at this preſent moment, in not being able to expreſs, with how much ſincere reſpect and eſteem, I am,

My Lord Duke,

Your much obliged,

moſt obedient,

and very humble ſervant,

Edinburgh, 20. Dec. 1775.

DAVID LOCH.

PREFACE.

THE author of the following ſheets has ſo often freely offered his ſentiments to the public, that ſome of his readers may think the preſent work entirely ſuperfluous. A deſire, however, to gratify the wiſhes of ſeveral of his beſt friends, and whom he is proud to ſay, are likewiſe the beſt friends to their country, prevailed upon him to digeſt into one pamphlet, in the beſt manner he was capable, what he had upon different occaſions, and at remote periods, publiſhed in the news papers, with ſuch remarks as may have ſince occured to him.

An undertaking of this nature, the author will readily acknowledge, is extremely out of the line of life in which he was educated. He, conſequently, muſt labour under many diſadvantages in the proſecution of it, which others, more accuſtomed to literary labour, would not be liable to. Theſe he did not fail to mention to thoſe gentlemen who have honoured him with their friendſhip; but, as they were pleaſed to ſay, that his experience in trade would do more than compenſate for any

deficiencies in point of language, he has adventured upon the taſk; hoping that his other readers will be equally indulgent in this reſpect, with thoſe of his friends upon whoſe ſolicitations it was undertaken.

Having premiſed this much, the author will now proceed to lay down the plan on which he means to proſecute the work.

Firſt, As it is the greateſt object for the increaſe of our woollen manufacture, which the author has, from his earlieſt life, thought the ſtaple of this country he will endeavour to enforce the propriety of encreaſing the number of ſheep; and the neceſſity of getting a proper breed of that uſeful animal introduced into the country. He will next endeavour to point out the many advantages ſuch a conduct would be of, not only in reducing the price of proviſions; but likewiſe as being the moſt beneficial manner in which the farmer could poſſibly employ his ground. The author, having ſpent the moſt part of his time in mercantile affairs, cannot be preſumed ſo fully qualified to treat this part of his ſubject ſo much to his own ſatisfaction, or thoſe of his readers, as others that have in a more particular manner engaged his attention. This defect, however, he has been at pains to remedy, by very frequently converſing with many judicious and knowing farmers, on the ſubject of breeding ſheep. He has likewiſe had recourſe

recourſe to ſome of the beſt authors who have wrote upon it; and he flatters himſelf, that the obſervations he has thence been enabled to make, if ſeriouſly conſidered, will not be unworthy the attention of thoſe who would wiſh to improve the breed of ſheep in this country.

The next ſection of this work will be directed to the Woollen Manufactory. On this ſubject, the author has the vanity to think he can ſpeak with ſome degree of confidence. Trade, to many different parts of the globe, having been his conſtant employment, from the earlieſt period of his life, and having carried it on to an extent, not very frequently practiſed in this country, he has thereby been enabled to make ſome obſervations, on the nature of merchandiſe in general, which he thinks may lay claim, at leaſt, to a patient hearing. On this article he hopes to ſhew, by the moſt irrefragable proofs, that the woollen manufactory is not only the natural, but the moſt beneficial ſtaple, in which the inhabitants of this country can poſſibly engage, and that every public, as well as private encouragement, ought to be afforded thoſe who ſet up manufactories, in which wool can be employed. The linen manufactory, which has been long thought the ſtaple of this country; but to which idea the author could never give his aſſent, will fall natu-

rally to be treated of under this head. As this branch has long been favoured with the protection and encouragement of the public, it may be thought a bold attempt, in an individual, to combat ſo univerſal and ſo long received an opinion. But opinions, however reſpectable, muſt always give way to facts. From theſe the author has no doubt of convincing every impartial reader, that flax, being an exotic in this country, and the climate an enemy to its ever being brought to perfection, muſt, in every view, be conſidered as a moſt unnatural purſuit; while wool, which is the natural production of the country, and which might be increaſed to any extent, not only without riſk, but with the higheſt advantage to the raiſer, and the country at large, ought to be ſtrenuouſly proſecuted and encouraged.

The Fiſheries ſhall occupy the next ſection of this work. Theſe the author has long conſidered as an article of the higheſt conſequence, and which ought to be proſecuted with the moſt unremitting ardour. The Woollen Manufactory he conſiders as the firſt ſtaple of this country: he can have little doubt, that the Fiſheries deſerve the ſecond place.

As ſo very large ſums of money are annually ſent to London for Porter, and as it is an object worthy of the particular attention of every friend to his country; the

author

author has adventured ſome obſervations on that ſubject. Happy ſhould he be, could theſe have the effect of opening the eyes of his countrymen, ſo far as to diveſt them of the unnatural prejudices which they have long indulged againſt the malt liquors brewed in Scotland. If this were once to take place, and proper encouragement given to our own countrymen, the author has little doubt, that the public would be equally well ſerved, a number of additional hands employed, and much money kept at home, which is now ſent to London.

The American diſputes having unhappily arrived at a height to which few expected them, and conſequently very much attracted the attention of the public, the author has allotted part of this work to offer his ſentiments upon that ſubject. The frequent intercourſe he had with that country, while he was concerned in trade, he hopes, will afford ſome apology for attempting to write upon a ſubject that has ſo long engaged the heads and pens of the moſt eminent men in the nation. If he ſhall differ in opinion from moſt of them, he flatters himſelf it will not be attributed to a deſire of being ſingular, but to its true motive, that of delivering the real ſentiments of his heart, which he has done on this, as well as every other ſubject on which he has offered his opinion. This will naturally lead

to

to ſome obſervations on the trade carried on between Great Britain and her colonies, which ſeems to have been little underſtood by the *patriots* on the other ſide the Tweed, or falſe gloſſes put upon it, in order to deceive their weaker brethren. Theſe unhappy diſputes and heart-burnings, he is hopeful, will ſoon be terminated. In that view, therefore, he will endeavour in the next place, to point out a plan, by which that trade may be improved to the mutual advantage of Great Britain and her Colonies, and in a more eſpecial manner to Scotland.

Some general obſervations, on various ſubjects, will conclude this work. The author has already confeſſed his inability to perform it as he could have wiſhed. But, as it is ſolely intended for the good of his fellow countrymen, he is confident that conſideration, with the judicious part of mankind, will atone for a number of faults. As he is entirely diſintereſted himſelf, farther than the deſire he has of ſeeing the manufactures of his country flouriſh, he is ſenſible of meeting with the contumely of the intereſted, againſt whom many of the enſuing obſervations may ſtrike, though he aſſures them no perſonal or ill-natured attack is intended. He is alſo ſenſible he ſhall be treated with deriſion by another claſs of people, who, he is ſorry to confeſs,

are

are far from being contemptible, in point of numbers. He means thoſe who cannot conceive how a man, who has the misfortune not to poſſeſs ſo many acres, or can ſhow ſo much ready caſh as themſelves, ſhould have the preſumption to offer them an advice; or why, if he has that effrontery, any attention ſhould be paid to it? There is ſtill another claſs, whoſe ſneers he lays his account with receiving, and theſe are the middling, and even lower ſet of people; though it is the intereſt of theſe very people which the author has moſt at heart. But while he continues to enjoy the approbation of the real friends to his country, no conſideration ſhall deter him from expoſing every thing which he is conſcious is contrary to its true intereſts, and recommending, with the utmoſt exertion of his poor abilities, whatever he thinks may tend to its advancement.

With theſe reſolutions he enters upon the preſent undertaking, and hopes from an impartial public a patient hearing, and what indulgence his want of knowledge in literary matters, and the importance of the ſubject itſelf, may be thought to merit.

30
63
NOV

SECTION I.

Of the propriety of encreaſing the number of Sheep in this Country, and the neceſſity of getting a proper Breed of that uſeful Animal introduced into it.

I HAVE choſen to make the raiſing of Sheep the firſt ſection of the preſent work, becauſe, if proper attention is not paid to that article, however anxious the country may become to encourage their own woollen manufacture, in preference to every other, yet if the manufacturer cannot be ſupplied with a ſufficiency of good wool, it muſt be a kind of forced work; or, at leaſt, not carried on with that briſkneſs and ſucceſs which it might be, were the quantity of wool, the produce of our own country, to be encreaſed.

To accompliſh this is by no means either a dangerous or a difficult taſk. I have been told that there may be at preſent three millions of ſheep in Scotland, and that their number might be encreaſed to ten millions, or even to a much greater number, without encroaching upon a ſingle acre of corn-land.

Before the Union, we not only clothed ourſelves, but ſent cloth and woollen goods, to a conſiderable value, abroad; nay, I find, beſides, that large ſums came into the country for unmanufactured wool. From this it is evident, that the number of ſheep in Scotland, before that period, muſt have been extremely ſuperior to what they are at preſent. And, in corroboration of that fact, I beg leave to mention one inſtance, of which I have been credibly informed, *viz.* That, forty years ago, there were, in Eaſt and Mid-Lothians, 20 ſheep, for one that are in theſe counties at preſent.

That theſe are facts, I imagine no one, in the leaſt converſant with the hiſtory of his own country, will controvert. In hopes to be forgiven, for endeavouring to account why we allowed our ſheep to diminiſh ſo greatly after the Union, I ſhall offer ſome conjectures on the ſubject. It is well known, that however the Engliſh may now affect to deſpiſe the Scots, they courted a union with the moſt unremitting ardour for a ſeries of years, and that it was at laſt brought about, more by underhand dealing, than from its being thought, by the bulk of this nation, of any advantage to it; nay, is it not well known, that by far the greateſt

part of Scotland thought themſelves ſold by a few of their leading men? Whether, however, this union has been of advantage to both countries, is a queſtion which has been often agitated, but which does not, from the nature of this little work, ſeem neceſſary for me to determine: perhaps, were I to give any opinion, I would anſwer in the affirmative. This much, however, I thought neceſſary to offer, in order to pave the way for my conjecture, concerning the neglect which this country appears to have ſhewn to the breed of ſheep, ſince the Union. The noblemen who managed this momentous affair, on the part of Scotland, poſſeſſed great landed property. They had received very large ſums of money from the Engliſh court, in order to bring about that much deſired event. The woollen manufacture had long been conſidered as the ſtaple of England. It may therefore be preſumed, at leaſt, that theſe noblemen, who had taſted the ſweets of Engliſh gold, might, underhand, be applied to for preventing Scotland from interfering with England in its favourite branch. Many other channels of trade could, with great appearance of utility, be held out to the inhabitants of this country; and, among the reſt, that of the linen manufacture, in which the Engliſh would never attempt to rival them. If, therefore, ſuch a thing was agitated, which I offer merely as conjectural, the moſt certain way of effecting it was, ſurely, by diſcouraging the breed of ſheep in Scotland; becauſe, without the commodity, it is impoſſible to carry on any manufacture. Whether the decreaſe of ſheep is owing to this cauſe or not, I will not take upon me to ſay; but it is an undeniable fact, that our breed of ſheep have gradually dwindled away ſince that period. That this, however, is greatly prejudicial to the true intereſts of Scotland, after begging pardon for ſo long a digreſſion, I ſhall now endeavour to point out.

Scotland, being in many places mountainous, is, perhaps, for that very reaſon, one of the beſt countries in the world for raiſing ſheep. Theſe animals love a dry paſture, and will endure much cold, provided they are kept from wet; nay, the colder the climate is in which they are brought up, ſo much the finer will their wool be. Inſtances of this might be multiplied without number; a few ſhall ſuffice.

That large tract of country called Thibet, which lies betwixt India and China, is moſtly 8000 feet above the level of the ſea, and conſequently, notwithſtanding its ſouthern climate, muſt be very cold. Here the ſheep delight to feed, and produce exceeding fine wool.

The mountains of the Andes and Peru, which lie in South America,

America, and belong to Spain, are ſtill higher, being about 15,000 feet above the level of the ſea. The cold is ſo intenſe upon the ſummits of theſe mountains, that it is impoſſible for either man or beaſt to breathe upon them; yet the ſheep fed upon theſe mountains produce full as fine wool as the former. They naturally, and by inſtinct, climb up as high as they find food and climate fit for them, and as naturally deſcend as they feel the winter ſetting in. In theſe high mountainous countries, the ſame temperature may always be enjoyed; for, as the ſeaſon alters, the place of abode can alſo be altered. I ſuppoſe 8000 feet above the level of the ſea is cold enough to live in, when the ſun is verticle, or right over head, and without ſhade: That, by deſcending 4000 feet, during the winter months, the ſame climate, as to heat or cold, may be enjoyed: That, by this means, the ſheep are conſtantly kept in a cool region all the year round, which is what pleaſes them, and at the ſame time are plentifully ſupplied with good dry wholeſome food.

Inſtances nearer home might alſo be mentioned; particularly in Spain; but, as I intend to borrow a good deal, concerning the method practiſed in that country, of paſturing their ſheep, from authors who have wrote upon that ſubject, and as this will fall more naturally to be taken in, when treating of the manner in which ſheep ſhould be managed in general, I ſhall wave it at preſent. As an inſtance, however, that the coldeſt climate in our own country, produces ſheep with the fineſt wool, I beg leave to mention, that I have obſerved, and often had in my poſſeſſion, ſtockings made from the wool of the growth of Zetland, much finer than any thing of that ſort of manufacture I ever ſaw; nor is there any country in which I had an opportunity of being, which promiſes better than our weſt Highlands, for bringing up and feeding ſheep, ſo as to produce good wool. Theſe numerous hills afford excellent ſheep-paſture; and, from their vicinity to the great weſtern ocean, the ſnow does not lie upon them, in the ſevereſt winters, above a few days at a time. It is therefore with much ſatisfaction I learn, that the inhabitants of that part of the country, are at preſent employed in procuring a proper breed, and greatly augmenting their number of ſheep.

It is with equal pleaſure I obſerve a ſimilar plan of conduct ſet on foot by ſeveral noblemen and gentlemen of this part of the country; and, I hope, the example of ſo many reſpectable characters, both for knowlege and birth, will be followed by every gentleman and farmer in the kingdom. Theſe noblemen and gentlemen deſerve the higheſt praiſe, for the trouble and expence they have been at, in procuring

proper Rams from Mr Chaplin of Lincolnſhire, for improving the breed of ſheep, beſt ſuited for our paſture. This was certainly ſtriking at the root, and laying a foundation for every future improvement in the Woollen Manufacture. By giving theſe Rams different ſtations, and allowing every gentleman and farmer to ſend their ewes to be ſerved by them, they evince to the world, that it is the good of their country they ſolely aim at, and likewiſe, that they themſelves are convinced, nothing can more effectually contribute to it, than an univerſal and ſteady reſolution of carrying on the ſame practice over the whole kingdom. I long ago propoſed ſuch a meaſure. It may, therefore, be naturally ſuppoſed, that I feel no ſmall degree of happineſs, in finding my ſentiments ſupported and confirmed by noblemen and gentlemen, more diſtinguiſhed by a love of their country, and every mental excellency, than by their high birth, though in this laſt they are inferior to none in the three kingdoms. When this wiſe and ſalutary plan ſhall once become univerſal through Scotland, as I hope it ſoon will, I am conſcious the moſt ſalutary effects will reſult from it, as well to the breeder of the ſheep in particular, as to the country at large.

To confirm this, I will beg leave to mention the caſe of a noble Lord, who has a breed of ſheep, partly Spaniſh, and partly from Dorſetſhire, and other counties in England, which thrive and feed fat on his pooreſt paſture, and none have died of the rot, or any other diſtemper, theſe four years paſt. His Lordſhip allows no tarring, and the wool produced from theſe ſheep ſells at 20 ſhillings *per* ſtone, while his neighbours tarred wool will bring no more than three ſhillings and ſixpence. The mutton is likewiſe much better than that of tarred ſheep. His Lordſhip reckons, that each ſheep, upon an average, yields 8 *lib.* tallow, and weighs 16 *lib per* quarter of fine meat. Theſe ſheep manure the land they feed on, by a very ſimple operation, and at a ſmall expence. His Lordſhip has a ſtrong netting made of about 30 yards ſquare. This is fixed to the ground with poles, which makes a fold for the ſheep, where they lie during the night, and when that place is properly manured by their dung, &c. the fold is eaſily removed to cover another ſpot. Thus, five ſcore of ſheep will ſufficiently bring into good corn land, from eight to ten acres in the year, and ſixty acres of this coarſe ground will do much to feed theſe fine woolled ſheep, by laying it down in this manner, *viz.* Twenty acres turnip, twenty oats, ten fitches, and ten with rye and ſmall yellow clover. Theſe ſheep drop their lambs, which are often twins, in January, and the ſame ewes frequently drop twins again in September; for theſe lambs his Lordſhip gets fifteen ſhillings

a-head

a-head in January, and about half that ſum, for thoſe which are dropt in September. Surely, ground cannot be better employed, or with more advantage to the proprietor, than in this manner. The plan is likewiſe ſo plain and ſimple, that, I humbly think, it ought to be adopted by all the gentlemen and farmers in this country.

As the following fact corroborates what is above mentioned, and as I am ſo far certain of its authenticity, as to be allowed to make uſe of the gentleman's name, in its ſupport, I could not omit here taking notice of it. Mr Chalmers, in the neighbourhood of Leith, who had occaſion to deal in feeding ſheep on the iſland of Inchkeith, bought his ſtock moſtly from Galla Water, which he found to anſwer very well, and generally ſold his lambs for between five and eight ſhillings. One of theſe lambs, however, being ſomehow out of order, the butcher would not give more for it than one ſhilling and fourpence. This was ſo very trifling a ſum, that Mr Chalmers rejected the offer, and reſolved to give the poor animal a chance for life, by allowing it to feed in the park along with his cow. In this paſture the ſheep had only remained fifteen months, when it grew ſo very fat, that he was under the neceſſity of ſlaughtering it, when, to his great ſurpriſe, the beaſt was found to contain 24 *lib.* of tallow, and each quarter weigh 23 *lib.* of the fineſt mutton that could be eat. The wool was likewiſe of ſo good a quality, that the ſkin brought ſeven ſhillings and ſix-pence, and the perſon who ſold it informed Mr Chalmers, that had his wife been in health to have been able to make uſe of the wool for her own family, he would cheerfully have given half a guinea for it. Can any crop, in point of profit, come up to this? Surely not. The wool of this ſheep might, beſides, have made cloth to the value of five pounds ſterling, and employed a good family ſeveral weeks in the manufacturing of it.

And here I cannot help making ſome obſervations on what has been advanced by a late author and ſurveyor of Tweedale. That gentleman takes upon him to ſay, that the bettering the breed of their ſheep would be a loſs to the country. This, I own, is the ſtrangeſt doctrine I ever heard, and, at the ſame time, the moſt repugnant to common ſenſe. How it can enter into the head of any man, that a breed of bad cattle is more advantageous for the country, and the proprietors, than a breed of good cattle would be, to me, at leaſt, is paſt conception ridiculous, and deſtroys every idea of improving a country.

The ſame author is greatly miſtaken as to what I ſaid with regard to the ſheep in Tweedale. I never recommended large ſheep, nor ſheep from a warm climate. I took upon

pon me, indeed, to adviſe the ſtore-farmers to get ſheep that bore better wool, than the bulk of the ſheep in that county do, and theſe they may have from Lammermuir, which this author ſays is much colder than the hills in Tweedale, by *frigid blaſts, and froſt rinds;* but certain I am, their wool, in general, is much better, and they are improving it every ſeaſon. The brucked faced ſheep, ſo much raiſed in Tweedale, bear the worſt wool of any ſheep in Britain, and are by no means hardier than the white woolled, ſhort legged ſheep, which are now raiſed in the higheſt and coldeſt grounds in Scotland. This gentleman recommends clumps of firs, as a proper ſhelter for ſheep; than which, I will be forgiven to ſay, nothing can be more abſurd. The drops which fall from trees are certain deſtruction to ſheep; neither do they afford any food, and very little ſhelter. The proper ſhelter for ſheep is undoubtedly whins; they both afford protection and food, and our forefathers, who, it will be no reflection on the preſent generation to ſay, were in many things as wiſe as ourſelves, were ſo ſenſible of this, that a premium was given, by a Scots act of parliament, for raiſing them. They are not a native plant of this country, but were imported from France; and I heard a nobleman from the county of Fife, with whom I have the honour to be acquainted, ſay, that ſome of his old tenants have heard their grandfathers tell, that they remembered the time when there was not a whin in Fife-ſhire. The propagation of whins has been greatly neglected in the ſheep countries, in the ſouth of Scotland, where they are much wanted. I would therefore humbly propoſe, that a little more attention might be paid to that article by the gentlemen and farmers of the ſouth country. A moſt judicious and experienced farmer, in the ſheep and black cattle way, with whom I converſed on this ſubject, recommends the propagation of whins, as the beſt cover and feeding for ſheep in the time of a ſtorm. It ſhould be done on a ſouth expoſure, with a loamy and dry ſoil, and may be raiſed to advantage from the ſeed, which ſhould be ſown in March. Theſe expoſures, in different places, would prevent the neceſſity of houſing the ſheep at night, which greatly ſullies and deſtroys the wool.

Another great prejudice to the wool of this country, is the unaccountable practice a number of our people have got into, of tarring their ſheep. I will venture to ſay, that nothing can more effectually tend to the deſtroying of the wool, than this cuſtom does, at the ſame that it has not the ſmalleſt influence in preſerving the ſheep, which is the only reaſon that can poſſibly be aſſigned for ſtill continuing it. Nature, however, that great and juſt monitor, ſpeaks loud-

ly

ly againſt it. Has the God of nature created any living thing, without at the ſame time giving it ſuch covering as is beſt ſuited for its exiſtence in this world; and ſhall we, finite creatures, pretend to amend his ſyſtem? Depend upon it, whenever we make the attempt, we ſhall find ourſelves egregiouſly miſtaken. Do we not ſee the horſe, the cow, and every beaſt of the field, nay, thoſe which are merely d meſtic, ſuch as the dog and cat, furniſhed, by that unerring Being, with a warmer covering, during the winter than the ſummer months; and ſhall we ſet ourſelves up as better judges, by adding to the covering of the ſheep, what nature never intended ſhould be added? I am much afraid, if we do, our labour will be loſt, and our preſuming to ſtray from the path that nature has pointed out, will only ſerve to confirm our ignorance. Let us take a view of the moſt northern climates, where we, accuſtomed to, and born in this country, could not exiſt. Are the wild beaſts in theſe regions ſupplied with any artificial covering? They are not Do they require any?—We have all the reaſon in the world to believe they do not. From whence do we receive all our fine furs and beaver, but from thoſe countries; and ſhall we then doubt, that the colder the climate is, there may we naturally expect the fineſt wool to be produced.

In ſpeaking to this point, hitherto, I have deduced my arguments from nature. To me, I will readily acknowledge, they are by far the moſt forcible; and many more might have been added. I ſhall now, however, endeavour to ſhew, that the practice of the moſt knowing and wiſeſt in this country, as well as that of the greateſt breeders of ſheep in the world, ſtrongly coincide with the opinion I have here adopted.

To theſe farmers, who have been in the practice of ſmearing their ſheep with tar, it is by no means my intention to adviſe a total abolition of it at once; as, to thoſe who have already undergone that operation, it muſt, in a manner, have become a ſecond nature; but ſure, even in theſe, the quantity might be gradually diminiſhed. Inſtead of this deſtructive practice of ſmearing the ſheep with tar, which greatly diminiſhes the ſoftneſs, cleanneſs, and fineneſs of the wool, I would humbly recommend, upon the authority of a ſenſible, judicious farmer, who has had thirty years experience in the management of ſheep, the rubbing them over with the juices of broom and tobacco, boiled together with ſtrong urine, and mixed with ſoft ſoap. This makes the ſheep ſtand the winter, keeps them clean, and free from ſcab, vermin, and moſt other diſeaſes they are ſubject to. The ſtems and refuſe of tobacco anſwer for this compoſition;

and,

and, if goverment would give orders to *boil*, inſtead of *burn*, all the condemned tobacco, and let the ſtore farmers have the juice, or ſell it to them for behoof of the poor, it would be a great means of reducing the price of butter; which, among other neceſſaries, has got up ſo high, by leſſening the conſumption of it; and ſoft ſoap can be had as good in Leith as in any place in Europe. This gentleman likewiſe informed me, that ſoft ſoap, applied to any part that is affected with itching or ſcab, removes it ſooner than any article with which the ſheep can be rubbed; and, ſurely, it is of a much ſofter and kinder nature than tar, and comes cheaper than butter. Indeed, from the materials of which it is made, there can be no doubt, that it is the beſt ingredient that can be applied to ſheep. It has likewiſe this further advantage, that the above gentleman declares he never knew it to fail, when rubbed in time, on any hard, ſcabby part of the ſheep, but that it always removed the cauſe of the complaint.

The noble Lord, who I have already mentioned, makes uſe of no tar to his ſheep, nor does he ſmear them with any thing inſtead of it, and yet they thrive better than thoſe of his neighbours, who practiſe that method, and their wool ſells at five times the price. Moſt of the gentlemen, and ſenſible farmers, who breed ſheep in this country, now follow the ſame example, and I hope the practice will ſoon become univerſal, as it is undoubtedly ſo in England, Wales, and indeed every other country who wiſh to have fine wool. I believe I may venture to ſay, that this is ſo much the caſe, that, if a calculation could be made of all the ſheep reared in the known world, it would be found, that, for one ſheep which is ſmeared with tar, ten thouſand receive no other covering than what nature has afforded; which, as I before obſerved, has taken particular care to fortify the brute creation with ſuch cloathing as beſt ſuits the different climates in which they live, and even to encreaſe or diminiſh it, according as the variations of the ſeaſon renders it more or leſs neceſſary. I am ſenſible the tarring of ſheep has long been practiſed in this country, and that it is no eaſy matter to aboliſh a cuſtom, which has become inveterate by uſe; eſpecially amongſt the lower claſs of people. To theſe, however, I would obſerve, that their grandfathers as firmly believed in witch-craft, as they were convinced that ſheep could not live wichout tarring, and many poor old women were burnt for being witches, for no other cauſe, but that they were more ſenſible than their neighbours. This inhuman practice has happily long been aboliſhed; and, I cannot help thinking the tarring of ſheep is equally ridiculous; for theſe poor people can give no better reaſon for

continuing

continuing it, than that their fathers and grandfathers did ſo before them. I would therefore recommend to them two very ſimple experiments, which I think ſhould convince them of their error, and in which they may eaſily ſatisfy themſelves. Let them take a handful of fine wool, that never was tarred, and another that had undergone that operation; let both be expoſed to a heavy rain; and, let the preference be given to that ſpecies of wool which beſt throws off the rain. I am certain the experiment will terminate in favour of the wool which never had been tarred; and therefore muſt conclude, that tarring, inſtead of being uſeful, is the deſtruction of the very ſheep we mean to preſerve. The other experiment I would beg leave to recommend is this, Let them, in very cold weather, apply to their naked bodies the ſkin of a ſheep which had not been tarred, and the ſkin of another which had been tarred, and I am perſuaded they will find the former much more comfortable than the latter. Can we then entertain a doubt, that it muſt have the very ſame effect upon the ſheep themſelves, which it is the great aim of every ſenſible farmer to keep, as much as poſſible, from wet and cold, during the winter? Nothing, ſurely, can anſwer that purpoſe ſo well as the covering with which nature has ſo amply provided them; nor is any thing more neceſſary for their preſervation and comfort, than keeping them from wet, and affording them a proper ſhelter from the inclemency of the weather, which may be eaſily done, by making plantations of whins, at convenient places, as already noticed, and which is even preferable to houſing them, as their wool would thereby be kept clean, while the putting them into houſes ſullies and deſtroys it. Our American brethren, indeed, have for ſometime paſt made uſe of this *precious* ointment, mixed with ſome feathers, as a *preſervative* for men; and I have no objection that they ſhould ſtill continue the practice. Many of them, I am certain, deſerve to be ſmeared with tar, and ſuch dirt, much better than our poor harmleſs ſheep; and, I make no doubt, that, by this time, they will be fond of any covering. I would therefore humbly propoſe, that government ſhould allow them the ſame bounty for keeping their tar at home, that they do for ſending it here; as we can be ſupplied with plenty of it for every neceſſary purpoſe, from Norway; that they ſhould ſtrictly enjoin the Boſtonians to tar all the hogs, tups, rams, and *croſs grown* beaſts in that country; and that their vermin of clergy ſhould be inſtructed to adminiſter that uſeful ſalve to the bodies of their flocks, ſo ſoon as they are able to carry arms againſt God, their King, and Mother Country.

Another great deſtruction to our ſheep, is the number of uſeleſs dogs kept in the country. I approve much of deſtroying eagles and foxes; but I am perſuaded the encreaſe of dogs is of much worſe conſequence to the ſheep, than even theſe and all other animals put together. Within theſe few years, the noblemen, gentlemen, and farmers, in a circuit of a few miles round Edinburgh, have had above 300 fine ſheep devoured, or tore to pieces, by theſe vermin. Some law, or tax, therefore, to ſuppreſs uſeleſs dogs, ought immediately to be applied for. There is ſcarce a porter, chairman, &c. but muſt have their dogs; and, as many of them are not ſupplied by their owners with neceſſary food, it is natural to ſuppoſe they ſhould betake themſelves to the fields, where they fall upon the harmleſs ſheep, which they deſtroy, much to the prejudice of the proprietors, as well as to the loſs of the country.

But, it is now time to treat of the proper paſture for ſheep and their management; and, on this ſubject, as I muſt acknowledge myſelf but little verſant, I ſhall rather offer the opinion of others, than give any deciſſive determination of my own. One thing, however, ſeems admitted upon all hands, and which I have already taken notice of, that hill-paſture is the beſt for ſheep, and what they moſt delight in. I have likewiſe obſerved, that this country abounds with ſuch paſture. We have ſome very fine corn lands; but theſe bear a ſmall proportion to our high grounds, which are fit only for the paſture of ſheep and black cattle. The gentlemen and farmers have improved their lands much of late years; but many have thrown away their labour, by endeavouring to make corn grow in a ſoil where it will never ripen, whereby they loſe the uſe for which nature has deſigned it. Land that lies one thouſand feet above the level of the ſea, in this country, will ſeldom, if ever, bring corn to perfection. There are ſome particular dry ſpots, that may, in very warm ſeaſons, bring the corns to fill, but ſuch crops are not to be depended on; while you are almoſt certain of ſucceſs in raiſing ſheep and black cattle upon theſe grounds, which I will venture to ſay, at the ſame time that no ſuch hazard is run, as with corn, will yield a more lucrative crop to the proprietor. I will beg leave to recommend, as to the management of ſheep, the method practiſed by the ſtore-farmers in the weſtern highlands. I have been informed, by a gentleman who has frequently viſited theſe countries, within theſe ten years, that there are very conſiderable tracts of country now occupied by ſheep, where none were formerly, and that, from ſome of theſe

ſheep

ſheep farms. 4000 lambs have been ſent to market in one year. The plan of feeding and rearing ſheep in thoſe parts anſwers ſo well, that two of theſe ſtoremaſters have already purchaſed the property of what they a few years ago only rented. This ſucceſs has induced others to follow their example, and large tracts of hills, which formerly contributed little towards the rearing of black cattle, their only ſtock, are now occupied by ſheep, from which the proprietor derives every advantage he expected. If this ſcheme ſucceeds in a particular diſtrict, it will certainly anſwer in every place, poſſeſſed of ſimilar advantages, of which there are many hundred ſquare miles in the weſt and north parts of Scotland, equally capable of this tranſmutation. I muſt here alſo obſerve, that the ſheep have greatly mended the paſture upon theſe weſtern hills, and no doubt do thereby much encreaſe their own value, and the fineneſs of their wool. Formerly, thoſe hills appeared to be nothing elſe than dry ſapleſs heaths; they are now, however, by the manure they receive from the dung of the ſheep, converted into a beautiful verdure, obvious at ſeveral miles diſtance, ſo that they can eaſily be deſtinguiſhed from thoſe hills that are not under the paſture of that uſeful animal.

Many things are neceſſary to be attended to by the breeders of ſheep; but, as I do not pretend to be maſter of the ſubject, I will not take upon me to give directions. A few extracts, from authors who have wrote upon the manner, in which the Spaniſh ſheep are treated, I flatter myſelf, will not be thought impertinent in this place.

I ſhall therefore here beg leave to lay before my readers, the following extracts from a letter wrote by a gentleman in Spain to Mr Peter Collinſon, F. R. S.

"There are two kinds of ſheep in Spain; the coarſe-woolled ſheep, who remain all their lives in their native country, and who are houſed every night in winter; and the fine-woolled ſheep, who are all their lives in the open air; who travel every ſummer from the cool mountains of the northern parts of Spain, to feed all the winter on the ſouthern warm plains of Andaluſia, Manca, and Eſtremadura. From computations made with the utmoſt accuracy, it has appeared, that there are five millions of fine-woolled ſheep in Spain; and that the wool and fleſh of a flock of ten thouſand ſheep produced yearly about twenty-four reals a-head, which we will ſuppoſe to be near the value of twelve Engliſh ſixpences. Of theſe but one goes clear a head to the owner yearly; three ſixpences a head go yearly to the king; and the other eighth goes to the expences of paſture, tithes, ſhepherds, dogs, ſalt, ſhearing, &c.

"Thus the annual product of the five millions of ſheep amounts to thirty-ſeven millions and a half of ſixpences, a little more or leſs, of which there are about three millions and a half for the owners, above fifteen millions enter into the treaſury, and ſeven millions and a half go to the benefit of the public. Hence it is the kings of Spain call theſe flocks in their ordinances, *the precious jewel of the crown.*

"Formerly this jewel was really ſet in the crown. A ſucceſſion of many kings were lords of all the flocks. Hence the great number of ordinances, penal laws, privileges, and immunities, which iſſued forth in different reigns for the preſervation and ſpecial government of the ſheep: Hence a royal council was formed, under the title of *The council of the grand royal flock*, which exiſts to this day, though the king has not a ſingle ſheep. Various exigencies of ſtate, in different reigns, alienated, by degrees, the whole grand flock from the crown, together with all its privileges, which were collected and publiſhed in the year 1731, under the title of *The laws of the royal flock*, a volume in large follio, of above 500 pages.

"The wars and wants of Philip I.'s reign forced that king to ſell forty thouſand ſheep to the marquis of Iturbleta, which was the laſt flock of the crown.

"Ten thouſand ſheep compoſe a flock, which is divided into ten tribes. One man has the conduct of all. He muſt be the owner of four or five hundred ſheep, ſtrong, active, vigilant, intelligent in paſture, in the weather, and in the diſeaſes of ſheep. He has abſolute dominion over fifty ſhepherds and fifty dogs, five of each to a tribe. He chuſes them, he chaſtiſes them, or diſcharges them at will. He is the *præpoſitus*, or chief ſhepherd of the whole flock. You may judge of his importance by his ſalary: He has forty pound a-year and a horſe, whereas the firſt ſhepherd of a tribe has but forty ſhillings a-year, the ſecond thirty-four, the third twenty-five, the fourth fifteen, and a boy ten. All their allowance is two pound of bread a-day each. They may keep a few goats and ſheep in the flock; but the wool is for the maſter; they have only the lambs and the fleſh. The chief ſhepherd gives them three ſhillings in April, and three in October, by way of regale for the road; and theſe are all the ſweets theſe miſerable wretches enjoy. Expoſed every day in the year to all weathers, and every night to lie in a hut. Thus fare, and thus live, generally to old age, 25,000 men, who clothe kings in ſcarlet, and biſhops in purple; for that is the number computed to keep the fine-woolled ſheep of Spain, with the ſame number of dogs of the large maſtiff-kind, who are allowed two pounds of bread a-piece *per* day.

I often ſaw theſe flocks in the ſummer ſheep walks of the hills and vales of Leo, Old Caſtile, Cuenca, and Arragon. I ſaw them in their winter plains of Manca, Eſtremadura, and Andaluſia. I often met them in their peregrination from the one to the other. I ſaw and I ſaw again. One eye is worth an hundred ears. I inquired, I obſerved, and even made experiments. All this was done, when I happily got acquainted with a good plain old friar, who had a conſummate knowledge of all the mechanical, low, minute circumſtances and œconomy of a flock. He told me that he was the ſon of a ſhepherd; that he had followed, fifteen long years, the tribe of ſheep his father led; that, at twenty-five years of age, he begged an old primmer; that at thirty he could read; that at thirty-ſix he had learned Latin enough to read maſs and the breviary; that he was ordained by Don Juan Navarre, lord Biſhop of Albarrazin, who, as it is known, even to a proverb, in Spain, has ordained thouſands, declaring, theſe forty years, in a loud voice, "That a prieſt is the "moſt precious boon which a biſhop can beſtow, in the name "of God, to mankind, even though he was as unlearned as "an apoſtle;" that thus ordained, he entered into the order of St Francis; that he had never meddled in their affairs theſe twenty-four years paſt, but only ſaid maſs, confeſſed, inſtructed, and gave an eye to about 500 wedders, who grazed in the neighbouring downs for the uſe of the convent; that he had read the Bible, the Lives of the Saints, and the Lives of the Popes, with no other view in the world but to find out all that was ſaid about ſhepherds; that good Abel was the firſt ſhepherd; that all the patriarchs were ſhepherds; that the meek ſhepherd Moſes was choſen to deliver the people of God out of bondage; that Saul, in ſeeking his father's flocks, found a kingdom; that David went out from his flock to ſlay the Philiſtine giant; that 14,000 ſheep was the chief reward Job received for his invincible patience; that Iſidro, the protecting ſaint of Madrid, was not, as it is vulgarly believed, an huſband-man, like wicked Cain, but that he was really a keeper of ſheep; that the great Pope Sextus Quintus was verily and truly a ſhepherd, and not a ſwine-herd; that, for his part, he had forſaken his ſheep to become a ſhepherd of men. He had all theſe things by heart, juſt as he had all the minute circumſtances of the ſheep he followed; and this letter would have been imperfect had I not met him.

"The firſt thing the ſhepherd does, when the flock returns from the ſouth to their ſummer downs, is to give them as much ſalt as they will eat. Every owner allows his flock of a thouſand ſheep, one hundred aroves, or twenty-five quintals

bals of ſalt, which the flock eats in about five months. They eat none in their journey, nor in their winter-walk. This has ever been the cuſtom; and it is the true reaſon why the kings of Spain cannot raiſe the price of ſalt to the height it is in France; for it would tempt the ſhepherds to ſtint the ſheep, which, it is believed, would weaken their conſtitutions, and degrade the wool. The ſhepherd places fifty or ſixty flat ſtones at about five ſteps diſtance from each other; he ſtrews ſalt upon each ſtone; he leads the flock ſlowly throngh the ſtones, and every ſheep eats to his liking: But then they never eat a grain of ſalt when they are feeding in lime-ſtone land, whether it be on the graſs of the downs, or on the little plants on the corn fields after harveſt-home. The ſhepherd muſt not ſuffer them to ſtay too long without ſalt; he leads them into a ſpot of argilaceous clayey ſoil, and in a quarter of an hour's feeding they march to the ſtones, and devour the ſalt. If they meet a ſpot of the mixed ſoil, which often happens, they eat ſalt in proportion. Aſk the ſhepherd why the ſheep eat no ſalt in lime-ſtone ſoil, and but little in the mixed? Becauſe, Sir, it is corn land. I know, and indeed who does not know, that lime abounds in ſaline matter? But then the ſalt, which chymiſts extract from it, may not be the genuine ſalt of the lime-ſtone before calcination, for the fire may form new combinations. It may be ſea-ſalt, or at leaſt the muriatic acid, which riſes in the vegitation of graſs, and ſatisfies the ſheep's taſte for ſalt. The latter end of July the rams are turned into the tribe of ewes, regulated at ſix or ſeven rams for every hundred. When the ſhepherd judges they are ſerved, he collects the rams into a ſeparate tribe to feed apart; But then there is another tribe of rams that feed apart too, and never ſerve the ewes, but which are merely for wool, and for the butchery; for, though the wool and fleſh of wedders are finer and more delicate than thoſe of rams, yet the fleece of a ram weighs more than the fleece of a wedder, who is likewiſe ſhorter-lived than the ram: which compenſation is the reaſon there are ſo few tribes of wedders in the royal flock of Spain. The fleeces of three rams generally weigh twenty-five pounds: There muſt be the wool of four wedders, and that of five ewes, to weigh twenty-five pounds. There is the ſame diſproportion in their lives, which depend upon their teeth; for, when they fail, they cannot bite the graſs, and therefore are condemned to the knife: The ewes teeth, from their tender conſtitutions, and the fatigue of breeding, begin to fail after five years of age, the wedders after ſix, and the robuſt rams not till towards eight. It is forbidden to expoſe ram's fleſh to ſale;

but

but the law is eluded, they cut the old rams; and as ſoon as the inciſion is healed, they are ſold to the butchers at a lower price than coarſe woolled wedders. That is the reaſon ſuch bad mutton is generally eaten in Madrid, and that is the reaſon there are more rams and fewer lambs ſtones ſold and eaten every day in the year in Madrid, than in the reſt of Europe.

" At the latter end of September they put on the redding or ocre. It is ponderous irony earth, common in Spain. The ſhepherd diſſolves it in water, and daubs the ſheeps backs with it from the neck to the rump. It is an old cuſtom. Some ſay it mixes with the greaſe of the wool, and ſo becomes a varniſh impenetrable to the rain and cold; others, that its weight keeps the wool down, ſo hinders it from growing long and coarſe; and others, that it acts as an abſorbent earth, receives part of the tranſpiration, which would foul the wool, and make it aſperous.

" The latter end of September the ſheep begin their march towards the low plains. Their itinery is marked out by immemorial cuſtom, and by ordinances; and is as well regulated as the march of troops. They feed freely in all the wilds and commons they paſs through; but as they muſt neceſſarily paſs through many cultivated ſpots, the proprietors of them are obliged, by law, to leave a paſſage open for the ſheep, through vineyards, olive-yards, corn-fields, and paſture-land common to towns; and theſe paſſages muſt be at leaſt ninety yards wide, that they may not be too crowded in a narrow lane. Theſe paſſages are often ſo long, that the poor creatures march ſix or ſeven leagues a-day, to get into the open wilds, where the ſhepherd walks ſlow to let them feed at eaſe and reſt; but they never ſtop; they have no day of repoſe; they march at leaſt two leagues a-day, ever following the ſhepherd, always feeding or ſeeking with their heads towards the ground, till they get to their journey's end, which, from the Montana, to Eſtremadura, is about 150 leagues, which they march in leſs than forty days. The chief ſhepherd's firſt care is, to ſee that each tribe is conducted to the ſame diſtrict it fed in the year before, and where the ſheep yeaned, which they think prevents a variation in the wool; though, indeed, this requires but little care, for it is a notorious truth, that the ſheep would go to that very ſpot of their own accord. His next care was, to fix the toils* where the ſheep paſs the night, leſt they ſhould ſtray, and

* *The toils are made of Sparto, in meſhes a foot wide, and the thickneſs of a finger, ſo that toils ſerve inſtead of hurdles. The whole ſquare toil is light. Sparto is a ſort of ruſh, which bears twiſting into ropes for coaſting veſſels. It ſwims; hemp ſinks. It is called* Boſs *by the Engliſh ſailors.*

and fall into the jaws of wolves. Laſtly, the ſhepherds make up their poor huts with ſtakes, branches, and brambles; for which end, and for firing, they are allowed, by the law, to cut off one branch from every tree. I believe this to be the reaſon, that all the foreſt-trees, near the ſheep-walks in Spain, are as hollow as willow-pollards. The roots of trees, and the quantity of ſap, encreaſe yearly with the branches; if you lop off theſe, all the ſap that ſhould go to the annual production, and to the nouriſhment of buds, ſtems, leaves, flowers, fruit, and growth of the branches, remains in the trunk; from hence ſtagnation, fermentation, and rottenneſs. Next comes the time when the ewes begin to drop their lambs, which is the moſt toilſome and moſt ſolicitous part of the paſtoral life. The ſhepherds firſt cull out the barren from the pregnant ewes, which are conducted to the beſt ſhelter, and the others to the bleakeſt parts of the diſtrict. As the lambs fall, they are led apart with their dams to another comfortable ſpot. A third diviſion is made of the laſt yeaned lambs, for whom was allotted, from the beginning, the moſt fertile part, the beſt ſoil, and ſweeteſt graſs of the down, that they may grow as vigorous as the firſt yeaned; for they muſt all march the ſame day towards their ſummer quarters. The ſhepherds perform four operations upon all the lambs, about the ſame time, in the month of March; but firſt they pay the twentieth lamb; the other half tithe is paid in the winter walk. They cut off their tails five inches below the rump for cleanlineſs: They mark them on the noſe with a hot iron: They ſaw off part of their horns, that the rams neither hurt one another nor the ewes: They render impotent the lambs doomed for docil bellweathers, to walk at the head of the tribe; they make no inciſion; the ſhepherd turns the teſticles with his finger twenty times about in the ſcrotum, till he twiſts the ſpermatick veſſels as a rope, and they wither away without any danger. As ſoon as the month of April comes about, which is the time of their departure, the ſheep expreſs, by various uneaſy motions, a remarkable reſtleſsneſs, and ſtrong deſire to go off. The ſhepherds muſt exert all their vigilance leſt they ſhould eſcape; and it has often happened, that a tribe has ſtolen a march of three or four leagues upon a ſleepy ſhepherd: but he is ſure to find them, for they return exactly the ſame way they came; and there are many examples of three or four ſtrayed ſheep walking an hundred leagues to the very place they fed in the year before. Thus they all go off towards the ſummer mountains in the ſame order they came; only, with this difference, the flocks that go to Leo and

Caſtile

Caſtile are ſhorn in the road; where we will ſtay a little to ſee the apparatus of this operation, whilſt the other flocks march to Molina Arragon. They begin to ſhear the firſt of May, provided the weather be fair; for if the wool were not quite dry, the fleeces, which are cloſe piled upon one another, would ferment and rot. It is for this reaſon that the ſhearing houſes are ſo ſpacious. I ſaw ſome which can contain, in bad weather, 20,000 ſheep, and coſt above 5000 l. ſterling: beſides, the ewes are creatures of ſuch tender conſtitutions, that, if they were expoſed immediately after ſhearing, to the air of a bleak night, they would all periſh.

"There are 125 ſhearmen employed to ſhear a flock of 10,000 ſheep: a man ſhears twelve ewes a-day, and but eight rams. The reaſon of this difference is, not only becauſe the rams have larger bodies, ſtronger and more wool; but the ſhearman dare not tie their feet, as they do thoſe of the unreſiſting ewes. Experience taught, that the bold rebellious ram would ſtruggle even to ſuffocation in captivity under the ſhears: they gently lay him down, they ſtroke his belly, they beguile him out of his fleece. A certain number of ſheep are led into the great ſhelter-houſe, which is a parallelogram of 4 or 500 feet long, and 100 wide, where they remain all day; as many as they judge can be diſpatched by the ſhearmen next day, are driven from the ſhelter-hall into a long, narrow, low gut, which is called the *ſweating place*, where they remain all night, crouded as cloſe together as the ſhepherd can keep them, that they may ſweat plentifully, which, as they ſay, is to ſoften the wool for the ſhears, and oil their edges. They are led by degrees in the morning into the ſpacious ſhearing hall, which joins the ſweating room. The ſhepherd carries them off as faſt as they are ſheared, to be marked with tar; and as this operation is neceſſarily performed upon one at a time, it gives a fair opportunity to the ſhepherds to cull out for the butchery all the ſheep of the flock who have outlived their teeth. The ſheared ſheep go to the fields to feed a little, if it be fine weather, and they return in the evening to paſs the night in the yard before the houſe, within the ſhelter of the walls; but if it be cold and cloudy, they go into the houſe. They are thus brought by degrees to bear the open air; and their firſt days journies from the ſhearing houſe to the mountains are ſhort: where we will leave them to conclude their annual peregrination, and go ſee how fare the flocks of Molina Arragon, which have by this time got thither. But while the mule is ſaddling, a word of the ſhorn wool.

"The ſheep and ſhearers diſpatched, the firſt thing done

ls, to weigh the whole pile of wool: the next is, to divide each fleece into three ſorts of wool; the back and belly give the ſuperfine; the neck and ſides gives the fine; the breaſts, ſhoulders, and thighs, the coarſe wool. A different price is fixed upon three claſſes, though the general cuſtom is, to ſell the whole pile together at a mean price. It is ſold after it is waſhed, when it is to go out of the kingdom, or to any conſiderable diſtance in it; for, as it never loſes leſs than half its weight in waſhing, and often more when the ſweating is violent, half the carriage is ſaved.

"Thirty-one leagues S. E. of Madrid, and five leagues S. of the ſource of the river Tagus, is the town of Molina Arragon, capital of a lordſhip of the crown, which is twelve leagues wide, as many long, and almoſt in the center of Spain. The highlands of this little territory are covered with pine trees; the lowlands feed about 150,000 ſheep. Here I learnt ſome truths which prove that the three following opinions ſhould be ranked among vulgar errors.

"1. That ſheep eat and love aromatic plants, and that the fleſh of thoſe that feed on hills where ſweet herbs abound, has a fine taſte.

"2. That ſalt ſprings are not found in the high primative mountains, but in the low hills and plains only.

"3. The metalic vapours deſtroy vegetation, that no rocks nor mountains, pregnant with rich veins of ore, are covered with rich vegetable ſoil.

"As my duty obliged me to paſs hundreds of days at the Platillo mine of Molina, I ſaw thouſands of ſheep feed around it. I obſerved that, when the ſhepherd made a pauſe, and let them feed at their will, they ſought only for the fine graſs, and never touched any aromatic plant; that when the creeping ſerpillum was interwoven with the graſs, the ſheep induſtriouſly noſled it aſide to bite a blade, which trouble made them ſoon ſeek out a pure graminous ſpot. I obſerved too, when the ſhepherd perceived a threatening cloud, and gave a ſignal to the dogs to collect the tribe, and then to go behind it, walking apace himſelf to lead the ſheep to ſhelter, that, as they had no time to ſtoop, they would take a ſnap of ſtœchas roſemary, or any other ſhrub in their way; for ſheep will eat any thing when they are hungry, or when they walk faſt. I ſaw them greedily devour henbane, hemlock, glaucium, and other nauſeous weeds, upon their iſſue out of the ſhearing-houſe. If ſheep loved aromatic plants it would be one of the greateſt misfortunes that could befal the farmers of Spain. The number of bee-hives is incredible. I am almoſt aſhamed to give under my hand that I knew a pariſh prieſt who had 5000 hives. The bees ſuck all their

their honey and gather all their wax from the aromatic flowers, which enamel and perfume two thirds of the ſheep-walks. This prieſt cautiouſly ſeizes the queens in a ſmall crape fly-catch; he clips of their wings; their majeſties ſtay at home. He aſſured me that he never loſt a ſwarm from the day of this diſcovery to the day he ſaw me, which I think was five years.

"The ſheepherd's chief care, is not to ſuffer the ſheep to go out of their toils till the morning ſun has exhaled the dew of a white froſt, and never let them approach a rivulet or pond after a ſhower of hail; for if they ſhould eat the dewy graſs, or drink hail-water, the whole tribe would become melancholy, faſt pine away, and die, as often happened. Hail-water is ſo pernicious to men in this climate, that the people of Molina will not drink the river water after a violent ſhower of hail; experience taught the danger: but let it be ever ſo muddy, and riſe ever ſo high after rain, they drink it without fear. Perhaps this may be the unheeded cauſe of many endemical epidemics of other cities. The ſheep of Andaluſia, who never travel, have coarſe, long, hairy wool. I ſaw a flock in Eſtramadura, whoſe wool trailed on the ground. The itinerant ſheep have ſhort, ſilky, white wool. I do believe, from a few experiments, and long obſervation, that, if the fine-woolled ſheep ſtaid at home in the winter, their wool become coarſe in a few generations. If the coarſe woolled ſheep travelled from climate to climate, and lived in the free air, their wool would become fine, ſhort, and ſilky, in a few generations.

"The fineneſs of the wool is due to the animal's paſſing its life in an open air of equal temperature. It is not colder in Andaluſia and Eſtramadura in the winter, than it is in the Montano or Molina in ſummer. There is little froſt in Andaluſia. Sometimes it ſnows in June in Molina. I felt a cold day upon the leaſt cloud in ſummer. Conſtant heat, or conſtant cold, with houſing, are the cauſes of coarſe, black and ſpeckled wool. All the animals, I know, who live in the open air, conſtantly keep up to the colour of their ſires. There are the moſt beautiful brindled ſheep in the world among the coarſe-woolled ſheep of Spain. I never ſaw one amongſt the fine-woolled flock. The free, but leſs abundant perſpiration in the open air, is ſwept away as faſt as it flows, whereas it is greatly increaſed by the exceſſive heat of numbers of ſheep, houſed all night in a narrow place. It fouls the wool, makes it hairy, and changes its colour. The ſwine of Spain, who paſs their lives in the woods, are all of one colour, as the wild boars. They have fine, ſilky curled briſtles. Never did a Spaniſh hog's briſtle pierce a

ſhoe. What a quantity of dander is daily ſecerned from the glands of a ſtabled horſe: the curry-comb and hair cloth ever in hand: How clean is the ſkin of a horſe that lives in the open air!"

Richard Twiſs, Eſq; who has lately publiſhed travels through Portugal and Spain, agrees with the gentleman above quoted, and gives us the following paſſage on that ſubject: "March 11. The road over which we travelled this day, was ſomewhat hilly; we arrived at noon, at the city of Segovia, which ſtands on a hill, at the foot of which runs the ſmall river Ereſma. Segovia is walled, and is about eighty miles diſtant from Valladolid. Between Olmedo and this city we ſaw vaſt numbers of ſheep, the wool of which is accounted the fineſt in Spain. I made enquiry about the ſheep walks, and concerning the method of managing theſe animals, of which a very juſt account is given by the Abbe de la Porte, in the ſixteenth volume of his *Voyageur Francois*, printed in Paris in 1772. It is as follows:

"Numberleſs flocks of ſheep cover the plains of Segovia, and produce that excellent wool, which makes ſuch an important branch of the commerce of Spain. The kings were antiently the proprietors of the greateſt part of theſe flocks; they have been ſucceſſively alienated for ſtate exigences. Philip I. was obliged to ſell the laſt fourteen thouſand ſheep, which belonged to the crown, to defray the expences of war. They are, however, ſtill the object of the government's particular attention: In effect, there is a conſiderable exportation of wool, which is uſed all over Europe. Does its ſuperiority depend only on the climate, or on a particular method of managing the ſheep? Thoſe that embrace the latter opinion ſay, that there are in Spain two ſorts of ſheep, very different in their fleece, though they appear to be of the ſame breed. The ſheep with coarſe fleeces remain all the year in the ſame place, and in the winter nights they are ſhut up in a fold. On the contrary, the others live always in the open air, and travel twice a-year. During the ſummer they ſtray on the mountains of Leon, of old Caſtile, of Cuenca, and of Arragon: They paſs the winter on the temperate plains of la Mancha, Eſtramadura, and Andaluſia. According to very exact calculations, there are reckoned in Spain, more than five millions of thoſe travelling ſheep with fine wool. It may eaſily be imagined how much care, intelligence, and activity is requiſite from thoſe who have the charge of conducting thoſe vaſt flocks.

"They muſt take particular heed not to let them want ſalt, eſpecially after their return from the ſouth to their ſummer paſturages. That commodity keeps them in health, and hardens their conſtitution, which contributes infinitely to the

the beauty of the wool. After having paſſed the winter in a temperate climate, they ſet out in the month of April for the mountains.

" The ſheep themſelves ſhow their deſire of changing their place, by many unquiet motions; and that deſire is ſo ſtrong, that the ſhepherds muſt be very watchful to prevent their eſcaping.

" They begin to ſhear them in the month of May, either on the road or after their arrival. It is neceſſary to wait for fine weather; for if their wool was not dry enough, the fleeces being piled on each other would ferment and ſpoil. Towards the end of July, the number of rams neceſſary for propagation are mixed with the ſheep. Six or ſeven rams are ſufficient for a hundred ſheep: Out of a numerous flock of rams, the ſtrongeſt and handſomeſt are choſen for that purpoſe. There are in general very few ſheep in theſe travelling flocks, though their wool is finer, and their fleſh better than that of the rams, but the fleece of theſe is heavier, they live longer, and by that means their total product is more conſiderable. It is eſteemed very eſſential to beſmear theſe animals in the month of September, from the neck to the root of the tail, with a ferruginous earth mixed with water. It is ſaid that this unguent, mixing with the greaſe of the wool, becomes impenetrable to rain and to cold, and that it abſorbs part of the tranſpiration, which would otherways render the fleece rough and coarſe. At the end of September the ſheep begin their march towards the lower plains. They travel one hundred and fifty leagues in forty days, when the time comes that the ſheep drop their lambs, the ſhepherds firſt ſeparates thoſe which are ſteril from thoſe which are fruitful: Theſe are guided to the beſt places of ſhelter, and thoſe to the coldeſt parts of the diſtrict. The ſpots which produce the beſt and moſt abundant herbs, are alſo alloted for the youngeſt lambs; that, by being fortified with good food, they may be able to depart with the others. The tail is cut off within five inches of the rump to keep them the cleaner. It is an error to believe that the ſheep prefer aromatic plants to others, and that they are more beneficial to them. It is the tender herbs that grow between thoſe plants, that afford the moſt wholeſome nouriſhment for them, and that gives a good taſte to their fleſh. They muſt never be led to feed till the ſun has diſſipated the morning dew, and muſt not be allowed to drink immediately after a hail ſtorm, becauſe that water, or wet graſs, renders them melancholy, and makes them languiſh and die.

" It appears then to be certain that the ſuperiority of the wool in this country is not to be attributed to the climate only; and that it depends in a great meaſure on the precautions

tions above mentioned; becauſe, in the ſame climate, the ſheep of Andaluſia, which are of the ſame breed, but which are not taken the like care of, have their wool much coarſer. Would it be advantageous in other countries to allot large tracts of land for the paſturage of theſe animals; and would it be as much ſo to the proprietor, as if he had made thoſe lands ſerve for other purpoſes? To theſe countries where lands are ſucceſſively cultivated, flocks of ſheep muſt be conſidered more for the uſe they are of to agriculture, than for their fleeces. Dung is there much more neceſſary than wool. The travelling ſheep furniſh no manure when they wander in the mountains, ſo that they muſt be confined together in lands which require cultivation."

Though I will not pretend to ſay, how far a ſimilar conduct ought to be followed by the raiſers of ſheep in this country, with what is obſerved in Spain, as to their paſturing, yet I do humbly think, that ſeveral very uſeful hints may be gathered, by the ſenſible farmer, from a ſerious peruſal of the above paſſages, particularly with regard to the proper time of ſlaughtering the ſheep, when nature has ſo far deprived them of teeth, as to diſable them from eating a ſufficient quantity of food to fatten them; the obſervance of which, I am afraid, is, in general, but too little attended to. And, that even a trial of preſenting ſalt to them, at different ſtages of their walks, as it would be an experiment attended with very little expence, ſo, if it ſhould not anſwer every expectation conceived from it, might, at leaſt, be tried without fear of danger. If ſalutary conſequences were obſerved to ariſe from it, then the practice might be extended. At any rate, I could ſincerely wiſh, that ſome gentlemen, or farmers of public-ſpirit, would make the experiment, upon a ſmall part of their flock, and either continue or deſiſt from it, as they ſaw it attended with or without ſucceſs.

One thing material to be obſerved, however, is, that the Spaniards have long conſidered ſheep, and their produce, to be the moſt valuable jewel in the crown. The Engliſh nation, whoſe wiſdom no one will diſpute, have been of the ſame opinion for many ages. They have, and with great reaſon, preferred the cultivation of wool, to mines of gold or ſilver, as it employed the heads and hands of the ingenious and induſtrious, and thereby brought a fund of wealth into their kingdom, which could not poſſibly be derived from any other ſource. Conſcious of its being the ſtaple and glory of England, they have ordered, that their ſupreme Judges, when convened together in the great council of the nation, ſhould be ſeated on wool-packs; that care ſhould be taken never to export any wool, till manufactured into cloth; that

none

none of the breed of their ſheep ſhould ever be allowed to be carried to foreign parts; that the exportation of either ſheep or wool, ſhould be a capital crime, and every perſon diſcovered to be any way concerned in it, deſpiſed, looked upon as an enemy to his country, and branded with infamy and diſgrace. Nay, ſo far was their attention carried to the encouragement of this moſt valuable branch; (indeed, it is of more real conſequence, and yields more profit, than all the trade of England beſides) that they would not ſuffer their dead to be buried in linen, the ſtaple of poor Scotland, but all in woollen, in order that the conſumption of this valuable manufacture might not ceaſe with the living, but even be ſent to the grave with the dead. This wiſe nation hath been equally attentive to procure every ingredient made uſe of in the Woollen Manufacture at the cheapeſt rate. For this purpoſe, all drugs, dye-ſtuffs, and every other article made uſe of in that branch, is allowed to be imported into every part of Great Britain, free of any duty whatever; while our fancied, and viſionary ſtaple, the Linen, is burdened with a very high duty on every article made uſe of in its manufacture, the rough flax alone excepted, and even on it the charge is conſiderable. But of this in its proper place

Before I conclude this ſection, which perhaps has already ſwelled to too great a length, I muſt be forgiven to ſay a few words in anſwer to ſome objections that have been ſtarted, as to encreaſing the number of ſheep in this couutry. I have been told, that ſome gentlemen think, if the number of ſheep were increaſed, it would lower the price of mutton, and conſequently leſſen the value of their land. This opinion, however, I will beg leave to ſay, proceeds entirely upon a miſtake; for the wool alone, excluſive of the mutton, will be fully ſufficient to enable the tenants to pay their preſent rents; and, if the mutton were reduced to half the price it now bears, the advantages that would thereby accrue to the manufacturer, and the country in general, would be immenſe. It is well known, that the cheaper we can bring our goods to a foreign market, the more certain we are of getting them diſpoſed of. It is equally well known, that, in a country where proviſions are dear, the price of labour muſt be proportionally ſo. If, therefore, the one can be reduced, the other naturally, and of conſequence, falls likewiſe; ſo that I humbly conceive, at the ſame time that the landed gentlemen can ſuffer nothing by the increaſe of ſheep the manufacturer, and the country in general, cannot fail of receiving great benefit from it. But, ſuppoſing ſo many ſheep to be fed as to overſtock our own market, I can ſee

no

no bad conſequences which could ariſe from that circumſtance, as the overplus could be ſalted and ſent to foreign markets, where it would be certain of a ready ſale. The moſt northern ſettlement in Europe, I mean Iceland, belonging to the king of Denmark, follows this practice. I have purchaſed ſalt mutton at Copenhagen, which had been brought from that place, the fatteſt I ever ſaw, and I can ſay with great truth, it proved excellent proviſion. Let us not, therefore, be deterred from increaſing the number of our ſheep, from the apprehenſion of its decreaſing the value of our land, or overſtocking the market. The former can never happen; and, if the latter ſhould, a new branch of trade will thereby be eſtabliſhed, which may give employment to an additional number of hands, and bring money into the country. It may likewiſe be objected to increaſing the number of our ſheep, that we ſhall thereby diminiſh the number of acres at preſent occupied in corn-land. But, to this I anſwer, that millions of additional ſheep may be raiſed, without incroaching upon a ſingle acre, capable of bearing corn, or rearing black cattle; for ſheep can feed to advantage, where neither the one nor the other will thrive, nor can any thing ſooner bring land in, capable to bear corn, than having it previouſly paſtured upon by ſheep. Some ſpeculative gentlemen, as I already obſerved, have attempted to raiſe corn upon grounds, where it is almoſt next to an impoſſibility it could ever ripen. Had they, inſtead thereof, ſtocked them with fine wooled ſheep, their returns would have been much larger, and more certain, at the ſame time that they were contributing their ſhare to the general good of the kingdom, by encreaſing the quantity of wool, which I always thought, and ſhall now endeavour to convince my countrymen, ought to be the ſtaple manufacture of this kingdom.

SECTION

SECTION II.

Of the WOOLLEN MANUFACTORY. *That it is the natural Staple of Scotland, and therefore ought to be encouraged, by every true lover of his country, in all its various branches.*

WHATEVER material is the natural production of any country, we may reaſonably conclude the cultivation and the manufacturing of it, into ſuch commodities as the inhabitants cannot do without, and may export to foreign nations with advantage, is preferable to any other material, which cannot boaſt of theſe advantages.

It is for this reaſon that I have, from the firſt moment I was capable of forming any rational ideas of trade, been firmly convinced, that my countrymen have all along been purſuing a phantom in the Linen Manufacture, while they have totally diſregarded, or very much overlooked, that real and ſubſtantial ſource of trade, which they would have found in the Woollen Manufacture, and which it never can be too late eagerly to follow after.

To combat an inveterate cuſtom, I am not inſenſible, is a very bold, and a very hazardous undertaking. If that cuſtom, however, from the experience of ages, ſhall have been found a moſt prejudicial one to the intereſts of the community, I have too high an opinion of the good ſenſe of my countrymen to imagine, that the endeavours of an individual, to point out the evils attending it, and the advantages which might be derived by adopting a different conduct, will meet with their diſapprobation.

In theſe hopes, and from a conſciouſneſs of the great ſuperiority of the Woollen Manufacture over the Linen, were equal encouragement given to both, I have adventured, upon many different occaſions, to point out the advantages of the one, and the almoſt inſurmountable clogs and difficulties which are the attendants of the other. I have already obſerved, in the former Section of this work, that this country is fit, with very little foreign aid, to raiſe up a breed of ſheep, equal to thoſe of our neighbouring kingdom, or, perhaps, any other country. If we ſhould ſtand in need of a finer ſpecies of wool, than what can be produced from our own

ſheep, that can be eaſily attained, and ſhall be taken notice of in its proper place. But, perhaps, before going further, it may not be improper here to point out the diſadvantages attending the proſecution of the Linen Manufacture, to ſo great an extent as we have hitherto done, as from thence it will more evidently appear, how far the Woollen Manufacture muſt ſurpaſs the Linen, in every ſubſtantial and real advantage.

To begin, then, with flax. This great and fundamental article, if the Manufacturer means to have ſuch as is fit for his purpoſe, he muſt commiſſion from ſome port in the Baltic, or from Holland. Another article which he is under the neceſſity of bringing from abroad, is Pearl and Pot Aſhes. For the ſatisfaction of thoſe, who may not be acquainted with mercantile affairs, I muſt beg leave to lay before them, the charges attending the importing a cargo of theſe articles. They are as follows:

	per cent.
For a cargo of flax, ſhipped at St. Peterſburgh, Riga, or any other port in the Baltic, commiſſion 2 *per cent.* port-charges, ſhipping charges and Sound dues, 2 1-half *per* cent.	4 1-2
Inſurance, at a medium, through the ſeaſon, 3 1-half *per cent.* freight to Leith 1 1-half *per cent.*	5
Loſs, by dry damage, at a medium, and ſhort, uſeleſs flax, packed ſo that it cannot be diſcovered,	5
Sea-damage, that the under-writers are not liable to pay; for they don't pay under 5,	3 1-2
FLAX. Shore dues at Leith, porterage, cuſtom-houſe charges, 1-half *per cent.* ware-houſe rent, and weigh-houſe dues, 1-4th *per cent.*	0 3-4
In all,	18 3-8

Charges on a cargo of Pearl and Pot Aſhes.

	per cent.
Commiſſion 2 *per cent.* port-charges, ſhipping, and Sound dues, 2 1-half *per cent.*	4 1-2
Inſurance, at a medium, 3 1-half *per cent.* freight to Leith, 2 *per cent.*	5 1-2
Loſs by ſea-damage, which the under-writers do not pay,	4
Duties,	25
Porterage, cartage, ſhore-dues, cooperage, cuſtom-houſe fees, weigh-houſe, &c.	1 1-4
In all,	40 1-4

The

The ſame charges attend wed and wood aſhes; only they are not ſo liable to damage at ſea, nor are the duties near ſo high as on the pot and pearl aſhes; but it equally affects the value, as they are much cheaper in price. The flax from Holland is not loaded with ſuch high charges and freight as from the Baltic; but even from Holland it will be equal to ſix or ſeven *per cent.* This is but a ſmall part of the trade; for the bulk of flax uſed in Scotland is imported from the Baltic.

The charges on Flax from Holland are,

	per cent.
Commiſſion 2 *per cent.* ſhipping charges and port-charges, 1 1-half *per cent.*	3 1-2
Inſurance through the ſeaſon 1 1-4th *per cent.* freight to Leith 1-4th *per cent.*	1 1-2
Loſs that the under-writers do not pay, 1 *per cent.* porterage, cartage, ſhore-dues, 1-4th *per cent.* cuſtom-houſe fees, and petty charges, 1-8th per *cent.*	1 3-8
In all,	6 3-8

From theſe ſchemes, which I am certain no one will ſay is unjuſt in the minuteſt article, it will be obſerved, that for every article imported for the uſe of the Linen Manufacture, flax only excepted, no leſs duty than 25 per cent. of its real value, is paid by the importer; and, though it may be ſaid, that, as no duty is paid on the flax itſelf, and, conſequently a ſufficient encouragement is thereby afforded to the Linen Manufacturers to carry on that branch of buſineſs, I would be glad to know if thoſe whom they employ to purchaſe this article, furniſh them with ſuch flax as they manufacture themſelves? or, if, after all, they can make ſuch a profit, as to make the hands they employ live with any degree of comfort? I am poſitive they do not: for the flax that is made uſe of in Sileſia is of a far ſuperior quality to any I ever ſaw brought to this country; and I am fully perſuaded every other country from whence we receive that commodity, will be equally attentive to their own intereſt in not exporting the beſt of the commodity which they manufacture at home. But I am aware of the anſwer which will be made here. It may be ſaid, we can cultivate flax ourſelves; and the Truſtees have given us every encouragement to do ſo. This laſt propoſition I will not deny. The Truſtees have indeed carried their encouragement to a height, which,

I hope, more mature conſideration will induce them to put a ſtop to. They have made many of our farmers ſacrifice the beſt of their ground to the raiſing of flax, for the ſake of their premiums, which otherwiſe might have been employed in corn-land, much to the advantage of themſelves, and the country in general; but from which, by this new and exotic culture, they muſt have been egregious loſers, had not the largeneſs of the premium indemnified them for the price of labour and land, though it cannot be diſputed that the laſt was thereby totally loſt to the community.

As to our cultivating flax ourſelves, at leaſt to any good purpoſe, I will venture to ſay, it is an attempt fraught with the higheſt abſurdity. This, nor any other iſland, that ever I knew, Ireland excepted, is proper for the growth of flax. I will beg leave to give my reaſons for this opinion very ſhortly. In all iſlands the weather is very changeable, and the ſnow in Scotland never lies a ſufficient time to keep the froſt out of the ground; neither is our heat in ſpring ſufficient to warm it, ſo as to make it fit for the reception of the ſeed; and vegetation, of conſequence, ceaſes. I cannot better exemplify this, than by informing my readers, that laſt ſummer, having taken a journey to the North, in order to viſit a gentleman, whoſe aſſiduity in promoting the manufactures of his country is well known, and whoſe memory will be venerated by after ages; I ſaw, in perhaps the fineſt country in Scotland for the purpoſe, ſeveral fine fields plowed down, which had been ſown with flax, at a great labour and expence, but which, unhappily for the deluded farmer, yielded no crop whatever. Had laſt ſpring been an intolerably cold one, this might have been pleaded as a reaſon for the failure; but every one knows, that a more promiſing and warm ſpring has not happened for many years paſt. I likewiſe paid particular attention to the flax I ſaw growing betwixt Perth and Aberdeen, and do fairly acknowledge I would not have taken a compliment of the whole, had I been put to no other expence than that of being obliged to dreſs and manufacture it. Indeed, the thing that is called FLAX, of the growth of this country, does not deſerve the name, nor will be conſidered as ſuch, by any perſon who has been in a country where real flax grows. It is in the Eaſtern countries of Europe where the beſt flax is produced: there the froſt never touched the ground ſince the creation, nor ever will; for, about the middle of October the ſnow falls, perhaps from two to three feet thick, often more. Immediately after the froſt ſets in, and freezes the ſnow ſo firm, that carriages go over it the whole winter, without breaking the cruſt. To-

wards

wards the middle of March, the heat of the ſun diſſolves the ſnow, when vegetation commences more rapidly than any one can imagine who has not ſeen it. The ground is thereby rendered like a hot-bed, and being ſo manured by the ſnow, the flax-ſeed, and barley ſown in theſe grounds, will be ready to reap in ſeven or eight weeks after ſowing. It often happens that no rain falls all the time the flax is growing, neither is there any need of the ground being much moiſtened, as the plant covers it in ſo ſhort a time as to ſcreen the earth from the great heat and drought. Nay, it ſometimes happens, that not a cloud is to be ſeen for many weeks together in theſe climates; nothing but conſtant ſunſhine and fine pleaſant ſummer weather. But it would be in vain to expect this in lands lying in the middle of the ocean; and, therefore, I would fain flatter myſelf with the hope, that the Board of Truſtees, being once convinced, that this country is no ways adapted for the raiſing of flax, would deſiſt from offering any more premiums for the culture of that exotic, as I am fully perſuaded it is ſo far from anſwering any good purpoſe, that it has an effect entirely the reverſe, and tends only to make the farmer, for the honour and regard of the premium, which, by the bye, will do little more than indemnify him for his labour and expence, neglect his ſowing ſo many acres with corn, which might have afforded cheap bread to our labouring poor.

As a further argument, to ſhow that flax is not a plant of this country, and ought not to be cultivated, let it be remembered, that you cannot ſow the ſeed raiſed by your own growth of flax for this year, ſo as to hope for any crop that will pay your labourers for the next; and, if you continue it three years, though you change the place of the country any where within Scotland, it will ſcarce come aabove the ground. Nay, do we not daily ſee proceſſes before the Court of Seſſion, between the Dutch merchants and thoſe of our own country, for the price of flax-ſeed furniſhed by the former to the latter; and is not their defence for not payment this, That having ſold the cargo to different farmers in the country, allowed the uſual credit given on ſuch occaſions, and they having laboured and ſown the ground with it, no crop whatever followed, for which reaſon they would not pay the Scots merchant the price ſtipulated; and conſequently, it would be extremely hard, were they found liable to the Dutch merchant for a cargo, from the ſale of which they never drew a penny. I will not take upon me to ſay, how far this would be a good defence for the Scots merchant. The circumſtance, however, of the flax never appearing a-

bove

bove the ground, undoubtedly afforded the farmer a good reaſon for withholding payment from the Scots merchant, as he not only was deprived of the crop he expected, but likewiſe loſt all his labour, and the uſe of his ground for that year. When ſuch are the uncertainties attending the raiſing of flax in this country, it is ſurely high time to give up the practice; for the moſt ſkillful cannot promiſe upon ſeeing the ſeed, but what it is in every reſpect good and wholeſome, while, at the ſame time, it may be dead, and uſeleſs to all intents and purpoſes. This was expreſsly the caſe in one of the proceſſes above alluded to. A proof was taken as to the quality of the ſeed, when ſhipped from Holland. People, knowing in theſe matters, gave evidence, that it had every appearance of good ſeed at that time. It was proved to have received no damage at ſea; and ſeveral perſons, who were deemed proper judges, gave it the higheſt character, after it came into the Scots merchant's poſſeſſion. There it received no prejudice; and yet not a ſingle veſtige of it was to be ſeen, after being put into the ground, though ſown by many different farmers in the county of Moray, which is known to contain as rich good ground as any in Scotland.

I have been the more particular on this ſubject, as I would ſincerely wiſh to convince the gentlemen and farmers of the impropriety of taking up their valuable grounds with an article ſo extremely uncertain and dangerous; and, as I am certain, flax, much preferable to any which can be raiſed in this country, in the moſt favourable ſeaſons, and from the moſt luxuriant crops, may be had upon eaſier terms from thoſe countries where flax is a natural plant.

It was never my intention to diſſuade thoſe who are already engaged in the Linen Manufacture, to give up that branch altogether; but to get out of it ſlowly, and apply more to the Woollen. Linens, for our own conſumption, ought certainly to be made at home, and even ſome for our neighbours the Engliſh; but theſe ſhould be of a coarſe quality, and from foreign flax. The Scots manufacturer cannot make daily bread by working fine linen, and ſelling it in the Engliſh market; neither need we imagine to make linen that will bring a proper profit, by exportation to any country abroad, or to our own plantations.

This would be a very abſurd idea, while Germany, and the Eaſtern countries, continue our rivals in that branch; for they are, and will probably ever be, able to underſell us, both as to price and quality, 30 per cent. It is not then to be ſuppoſed, that the Americans, or Weſt Indians, will purchaſe

chaſe from us, when they can be ſupplied with German linens, at the Dutch and Daniſh freeports in the Weſt Indies, upon much better terms. No reſtriction that can be laid on trade, by our laws, will prevent this; indeed, the temptation is too great to be withſtood.

Experience ought to have convinced us, long before this time, that the Linen Manufacture, inſtead of being a lucrative, was in many inſtances a loſing trade, eſpecially the finer ſorts of it, which we have been in uſe of ſending to the London and foreign markets. I dare venture to ſay, that the manufacturers of fine linen, thus exported, have, upon an average, been loſers by the trade, at the rate of 4 d. per yard; ſo that the more hundred thouſand yards which have been made and ſent abroad, as the ſtaple of the country, have been at the loſs of an equal number of fourpences, beſides the price of materials paid to foreigners. Surely ſuch a trade, if it was meant to give employment to our poor, was the very worſt which could poſſibly be thought of; for, while the maſters were loſers by the buſineſs, it was not to be expected they ſhould be able to afford ſuch wages to their journeymen, as to make them live with any degree of decency; but, on the contrary, it is well known, theſe poor people's pittance has been ſo truly ſcanty, for a number of years back, that it has required the moſt parſimonious œconomy to preſerve them from ſtarving altogether.

The Britiſh Linen Company made the trial of this branch, and with the beſt appearance of ſucceſs. That Company had the greateſt ſupport which ever was afforded to any undertaking attempted in this country. Their directors were compoſed of gentlemen the moſt ſenſible and knowing. Their ſervants honeſt, and ſome of them very alert, witneſs Mr. W. T--d; yet all would not do. I had the honour to be acquainted with ſome of the gentlemen who were in the direction ſome years ago. I have furniſhed the company with ſhips for ſeveral ſeaſons to bring home their flax. My poor opinion has often been aſked by ſome gentlemen, largely concerned in this trade. I was always uniform and explicit, that it could not ſupport itſelf.—The money that has gone out of this country, (and it is all caſh) in my time, to pay flax, and flax-ſeed, to Holland and Ruſſia, is ſo immenſe, that it is almoſt beyond credibility. I know, very nearly, the ſum that has been remitted, for theſe twenty years paſt, to Amſterdam, Rotterdam, and Hamburgh, for theſe articles; but it is ſo very large, that I do not chuſe to mention it, as it would ſtagger the belief of the moſt credulous. The ſum paid for pot, pearl, weed and wood aſhes, &c. has likewiſe been

been far from being inconſiderable. This trade, I am perſuaded, has carried more money out of Scotland in my time, than all our foreign trade put together; for the French and Spaniards take our goods in exchangefor their commodities; but thoſe who ſupply us with flax, flax-ſeed, &c. take nothing but ready money. It is to this cauſe, therefore, that I muſt attribute the great ſcarcity of caſh, and of the London and Dutch exchange being ſo much againſt us. As there have been leſs of theſe articles, however, imported within theſe two years paſt, the exchange has become more moderate, which is an evident proof of my aſſertion being well founded. That I am equally ſo, with regard to the advantages that muſt attend a leſs vigorous exertion in favours of the Linen, and a proper application being made to that of the Woollen manufacture, I ſhall endeavour to make evident in its proper place.

My knowledge of what put the *political* ſpinning wheels in motion, is not of yeſterday. It was Archibald Earl of Iſlay, afterwards Duke of Argyle, who long held the reins of the political ſyſtem of this country, that gave birth to this Utopean ſcheme, and he had able and good men to manage for him; but they were chained to his party. It is far from my intention to ſay any thing diſreſpectful to the memory of that nobleman. He was undoubtedly a very great man, and an ornament to this country; but the doctrine then was, *Keep the people poor, and they will be dependent*; nor could a more proper device, for that purpoſe, poſſibly be thought of, than employing them in the Linen branch. This I have frequently taken the liberty of mentioning to ſome of the leading men of thoſe days, with whom I had the honour of being acquainted; but words or writing, at that period, were of no avail. The anſwer to every thing offered on ſo unpopular a ſubject was, We muſt not diſoblige the Engliſh: the Woollen is their great ſtaple, with which we muſt by no means interfere, otherwiſe they will be offended, and then we ſhall get neither bounties nor premiums. A *patriotic* doctrine this, it may be ſaid; but ſuch was the caſe. Something more, however, was neceſſary, to make the deluſion go down. The counties and burghs were ſupplied with plenty of Britiſh Linen Company notes, which they were made to believe was eqivalent to caſh. Large quantities of flax, flax-ſeed, wheels, reels, flax-mills and *wind-mills*, were likewiſe poured in among them, in order to carry on a trade, that never did, nor ever can ſupport itſelf, if credit, at leaſt, can be given to forty years experience. Bleachfields were erected, and premiums given to thoſe who could raiſe

the

the moſt flax, &c. Provoſt ſuch-an-one, with the aſſiſtance of the Dean of Guild, Convener, and Deacons of Crafts, were appointed to have the direction of the diſtrict next to their reſpective burghs. Feaſts were given to theſe gentry, flax, &c. put into their hands. Bounties, premiums, and what not, were ſounded in their ears. Bleachfields were encouraged, though they were forbidden the uſe of lime or pigeons dung. Something inſtead thereof behoved to be ſubſtitute, which would force the linen to a ſudden whiteneſs, and, at the ſame time, be leſs expenſive than ſoap or any ſoft materials. Spirit of vitriol, or ſome ſuch pernicious materials were made uſe of, in order to enable them to bleach cheap. One devil was made to drive out another. It is ſoftened with the name of *Oil* of Vitriol; and many large bottles are uſed by ſome bleachers, I do not ſay by all of them; but it is ſure to extract the oils out of the yarn, and to burn the cloth. This has had a great effect in ruining the character of the linens made in this country; and many an honeſt houſe-wife, who makes for her own family uſe, ſeverely feels the bad tendency of this new invented method of whitening cloth. Chymiſts, indeed, ſay, that it may be uſed in ſmall quantities by ſkillful hands; ſo may poiſon and brandy to the human body; the operation is ſlow but ſure. If cloth is bleached with ſoap and aſhes, it will laſt double the time of that which is forced white with a ſpirit that will corrode iron.

Theſe, and many more which might be mentioned, are the diſadvantages that attend a too extenſive concern in the linen trade; or, in other words, making it the ſtaple of this country. At the ſame time, I am far from thinking, as I have already hinted, that the manufacturing of linen ſhould be entirely laid aſide, or that ſome kinds of it may not be carried on much to the advantage of the manufacturer, as well as to the country in general. But let us not attempt to ſupply London, or any foreign market, with the fine white Linen article, as we are by no means capable of rivalling other countries who deal in that branch. Encouragement undoubtedly ought to be given to the thin, low priced linen, manufactured in the counties of Fife, Perth, Angus, &c. as well as to that ſpecies carried on at Paiſley, &c. and to the linen yarn, manufactured in the connties of Aberdeen, Banff, &c. which has a ready and extenſive ſale at Nottingham, and other manufacturing towns in England, and has brought a great deal of money into the country. The Paiſley branch requires little flax to carry it on, and our own flax, if we muſt continue to raiſe it, will anſwer almoſt all the other

purpoſes. Theſe articles have long had an eſtabliſhed and ready ſale at London and other foreign markets; and though they ſhould be extended, would be equally ſucceſsful. It is to them, therefore, that the attention of the Linen manufacturer ſhould be entirely directed, and not to the fine white linen which nature has deprived us of the means of making equal to other countries, who are our avowed rivals in that branch.

I have dwelt thus long upon the article of the Linen Manufacture, as many, for what reaſon I am at a loſs to conceive, have imagined, that I propoſed it ſhould be given up altogether, which was far from being my intention. So far was I from being an enemy to the Linen Manufacture, that upwards of twenty years ago, I prevailed upon one of the greateſt men in the country, Mr. Oſwald of Dunnikier, to apply to adminiſtration for having the duties on all the materials imported for the Linen Manufacture taken off, and likewiſe the duties on hemp; but this application proved abortive. My great objection to it, therefore, as this could not be effected, and which ſtill remains with me, was, that we were puſhing it too far, while the Woollen Manufactory not ſubject to any duty whatever, was totally neglected, which I have long thought ought to be the ſtaple of this country.

In the former Section, I took occaſion to point out the many advantages which Scotland enjoyed over moſt other countries, with regard to her great abundance of ſheep-paſture. I ſhall now endeavour to ſhew, that it is equally favoured by Providence with every other article requiſite for carrying on the Woollen Manufactory, and that therefore this branch ought to be proſecuted with vigour, and in preference to any other.

It would be needleſs to recapitulate all theſe here. I ſhall only mention the three capital ones. The Wool, which we may increaſe to any quantity we pleaſe; or, if it ſhould not prove poſſible to improve the breed of ſheep to that degree, as to render it ſo fine as is requiſite for ſome purpoſes, we can commiſſion and receive ſuch from Spain, upon as eaſy terms as our neighbours. Firing is very much uſed in almoſt every article manufactured from wool. This Scotland in general, a very few places excepted, is abundantly ſupplied with, and at an expence far below our neighbours the Engliſh. The price of labour, likewiſe, is much leſs than what it is in our neighbouring country.

Theſe, did we poſſeſs no other advantages, were ſufficient, of themſelves, to encourage us to hope for ſucceſs in the

Woollen

Woollen Manufactory. But theſe, great as they are, do not comprehend all that we enjoy even above the Engliſh, who have carried that branch higher than any country in Europe. Let us then ſet about it, in good earneſt, and not liſten to the deluſive arguments of the narrow-minded, or ſelf-intereſted, who would inſinuate, that, if we interfere too far in the ſtaple of England, they will be offended, and refuſe to take thoſe articles from us, with which we have long been in uſe of ſupplying them. This, I am certain, will not be the caſe: for, however contracted the notions of ſuch people in this country may be, the Engliſh are endowed with a more liberal way of thinking, and have juſter ideas of trade, than to refuſe to deal with any country, becauſe that country may attempt to ſupply themſelves with what they formerly commiſſioned from England; or even to rival them in a particular branch. But this laſt can never be the caſe, with regard to the Woollen manufacture of this country; for, I dare venture to affirm, that, if it is properly attended to, let us manufacture as much as we poſſibly can, the Engliſh trade will not ſuffer in the ſmalleſt degree, but may even be extended; as a friendly junction of the United Kingdoms in the Woollen branch, could not fail of driving the French, Dutch, and indeed every other nation, entirely out of the foreign markets, which would be an acquiſition of great importance; while Ireland, by the ſame means, might enjoy, in a manner unrivalled, the Linen Manufacture, which is properly her ſtaple. This would encourage the Iriſh to ſend all their wool to Britain, moſt part of which, it is well known, is now ſmuggled to France or Holland, where it is manufactured into cloth, and by which means, theſe nations are alone enabled to rival England abroad this important branch. The advantages which might thence accrue to Great Britain and Ireland, would be ſo numerous, and cannot fail of being ſo ſelf-evident, that it would be treſpaſſing on the patience of the reader here to enumerate them.

Having ſaid ſo much on the Woollen Manufacture in general, I ſhall now proceed to point out the particular branches which might be carried on, no leſs to the emolument of the private undertaker, than to the great benefit of the whole kingdom.

The firſt which I ſhall mention, as being the principal article, is that of the *Broad Cloth*; the great material for making of which, from 2 s. 6 d. to 13 s. 6 d. per yard, is the produce of our own country at preſent; and, if the laudable endeavours of the noblemen and gentlemen, already taken notice

notice of, for improving our breed of ſheep, ſhall be crowned with ſucceſs, which I hope they will, we may ſoon expect to be in poſſeſſion of wool proper for manufacturing cloth of any fineneſs. But, ſhould this prove impracticable, we are ſtill in no worſe ſituation than our neighbours, as we can be ſupplied with Spaniſh wool, for our ſuperfine cloths, on as eaſy terms as any nation in Europe. Every other material we may equally well be ſupplied with; nor is there any deficiency of heads or hands for carrying on the work; for our people in general have as good geniuſes, are as quick in their apprehenſions, and as ſteady to their plans, as any people upon earth. I was always told, that we behoved to get people from our ſiſter country, to aid us in carrying on this moſt beneficial and uſeful manufacture; but, upon enquiry, and an inveſtigation of facts, I find nothing of that kind is wanted, as we have people well ſkilled in every part of that buſineſs, from ſheering the ſheep to bringing cloth of all dyes to market, from black to the fineſt ſcarlet, buff, and all colours that are done in England, and at a much leſs expence. I even find, that the buſineſs of dying, and moſt other branches, have been carried on in England, by our own countrymen, many of whom are at the head of the profeſſion. In ſhort, the whole operation of this valuable manufacture can be carried on, not only in this metropolis and neighbourbood, but in moſt parts of Scotland, if the noblemen and gentlemen afforded their countenance and ſupport, by taking the goods when brought to market.

And here it affords me a moſt ſenſible pleaſure, as it muſt every lover of his country, to obſerve a number of noblemen and gentlemen of the firſt eſtimation in the kingdom, not only giving their aid, by purchaſing the manufactures of Scotland, but, upon ſome public occaſions, wearing nothing elſe. One would think the examples of ſuch diſtinguiſhed perſonages would diffuſe a general ſpirit of emulation through the whole kingdom, and that every individual would vie with his neighbour, in taking this method of promoting the happineſs and proſperity of his country. This would indeed be public ſpirited: It would be real Patriotiſm; very unlike that deteſtable ſpirit, which, falſely aſſuming that name, has gone forth and ſpread wide and extenſive over our neighbouring kingdom, as well as the colonies, throwing every thing, ſo far as its baneful influence has reached, into anarchy and confuſion. The patriotiſm, however, which I would fondly hope ſhould take place in this country, is of a very different nature. Inſtead of diffuſing into the minds of the common people a notion that government is acting tyrannically

nically towards America, let us ſupply them with plenty of work, which will be much better employment for them than politics, with which they have no earthly concern, and to which I am certain they have not ſo ſtrong an attachment as their brethren in England. The one will afford a comfortable ſubſiſtence for themſelves and families, while the other, at the ſame time that it cannot fail of diſtracting their weak underſtandings, if want of buſineſs ſhould give them leiſure to think of ſuch matters, muſt eventually bring them to rags and beggary.

A ſimilar commendable public ſpirit, I am happy to inform my readers, has been alſo adopted by a very reſpectable body of our countrymen, I mean the gentlemen and farmers of Eaſt Lothian. They have long obſerved, with regret, the decayed ſtate of our Woollen Manufacture, which they juſtly conſidered as the ſtaple, particularly in their own county, which is every way ſo well adapted for carrying it on. There indeed, it has been attempted for near a century paſt; and though little advantage has accrued to the country in general, owing partly to miſmanagement, and partly to political cauſes, yet individuals have been ſupported by it in a very decent manner. The worthy gentlemen and farmers of that country, ſenſible of the truth of this fact, are reſolved, that all the obſtacles, hitherto thrown in the way of the Woollen Manufacture, ſhall not damp their patriotic ſpirit. For this purpoſe they have entered into a copartnery, and appointed Meſſrs. Sawers and Hamilton, two gentlemen of knowledge and abilities in their profeſſion, to carry on the work. The plan of this copartnery is perhaps one of the beſt which could poſſibly be deviſed. There is ſcarce a ſingle head of a family in the whole county, who has it not in his power to become a partner, as ſubſcriptions, ſo low as five pounds, are received, and intitle the ſubſcriber to every privilege and benefit which the higheſt can enjoy. At the ſame time, to prevent undue influence, and that the middling and lower ranks may not be overawed by the rich, no ſingle perſon is allowed to ſubſcribe above 100l. It is alſo provided, that none of the managers ſhall never interfere either in the politics of the county, or the burghs, very bad conſequences having formerly been experienced from ſuch conduct; as it is well known election matters are frequently carried on with great warmth, and create heart-burnings, which do not ſoon ſubſide, even among very near friends and connections. A company, therefore, whoſe exiſtence, in a great meaſure, depends upon the unanimity of the whole members of which it is compoſed, ſhould guard againſt every

poſſible

poſſible chance of being diſunited. It is not their intereſt, for the ſake of making one friend, to run the riſque of creating a number of enemies. They ſhould rather cultivate a good underſtanding with every one; and there ſurely can be no better method of continuing it, than to ſteer clear of being concerned with any particular party, eſpecially in political matters. This reſolution, I muſt therefore, think highly commendable, and while it is ſtrictly obſerved, which I flatter myſelf will be the eaſe, ſolicitations from either of the contending parties will not be made, and the company will thereby enjoy the countenance and encouragement of both.

This undertaking, I am perſuaded, can hardly fail of ſucceſs. They are in a great meaſure able to furniſh the great article wool among themſelves. No country is better ſituated for carrying on the manufacture, having plenty of fine water, and firing, in abundance, extremely cheap. They are a numerous, ſubſtantial body of men, and, though they ſhould not meet with encouragement from other quarters, which is ſcarce to be ſuppoſed, will conſume, in cloathing for themſelves, their families and labourers, a quantity almoſt ſufficient to give employment to all the idle hands in the country. Beſides theſe advantages, this manufacture will open a new channel of buſineſs for their ſons, whom they are often at a loſs how to diſpoſe of; and, conſidering the variety of operations neceſſary in ſuch an undertaking, there is no poor perſon, from eight to ſixty years of age, but may be uſefully and beneficially employed in it. The ſum required for this undertaking is only 3000l. ſterling, and ſo highly advantageous is it thought by many capital houſes in England, that were ſubſcriptions to be received from that kingdom, the whole ſum might have been procured in a few weeks. Propoſals of that nature, however, were not liſtened to, as it is from the number of ſubſcribers, that ſucceſs is expected, and theſe, too, reſiding in the ſame county.

The author of a late publication, entitled *Eight Sets of Queries, by a Peer of the Realm*, has been pleaſed to give me the honour of being the projector and principal promoter of this ſcheme, and has likewiſe been ſo partial to my poor endeavours in the ſervice of my country, as to beſtow many compliments upon me on that account. The teſtimony of ſo great and ſenſible a writer in my favours, I muſt own has afforded me much pleaſure; nor do I pretend to be ſo ſelf-denied, as not candidly to acknowledge, that, next to the ſatisfaction I receive in beholding the improvements of my country, the good opinion of ſuch as this Right Honourable author of my conduct, holds the ſecond place in my mind.

At

At the ſame time that I would recommend the moſt ſerious peruſal of theſe elegant and ſenſible Queries to the inhabitants of this country, I muſt beg leave to inform the author of them, that, though I did propoſe the ſcheme above taken notice of, at a very numerous meeting of the gentlemen farmers of Eaſt Lothian, yet, let it be remembered to their honour, that they cordially, and with one voice, approved and adopted it; ſo ſenſible were they, that it was the moſt effectual method of ſerving themſelves and their country, that little ſolicitation was requiſite on my part. They met me more than half way; and therefore it would be preſumption in me to take the whole credit of what they are ſo juſtly and eminently entitled to.

I will readily acknowledge, that though it is with the higheſt pleaſure I obſerve ſome of the firſt nobility, and many gentlemen in high offices, and of great fortune, encouraging and promoting the Woollen Manufacture of their country, yet it is not from theſe alone, great as their influence and example undoubtedly ought to be, that I look for the eſtabliſhment of this great ſtaple. It is from the conſumption of the gentlemen of moderate fortunes; from the farmers, traders, mechanics, and middling ſort of people, that I expect to ſee our manufactures flouriſh. It was for this reaſon that I caſt my eyes upon the county of Eaſt Lothian, as being the moſt proper to take the lead, in a matter of ſuch vaſt national concern, on account of many advantages it poſſeſſes over moſt other counties in Scotland, for bringing the branch to perfection. But it was not my intention that the affair ſhould reſt there. Many other counties, in a ſhort time, may be put upon a very reſpectable footing in this reſpect, as well as Eaſt Lothian, and I would humbly propoſe a ſimilar conduct to be followed on their part. The farmers in Eaſt Lothian, indeed, I believe, in general, are more wealthy and ſubſtantial than thoſe of moſt other counties in Scotland; it may therefore be neceſſary, perhaps, to make the ſcheme upon a narrower ſcale, and not to attempt the manufacturing of cloths of ſo fine a quality. Suppoſe the ſubſcriptions in theſe counties ſhould be ſo low as fifty ſhillings, and the higheſt not to exceed fifty pounds. This might raiſe a fund ſufficient to ſet a manufactory a-going, which would ſupply themſelves. If they afterwards ſaw that they could extend their trade to advantage, the capital might then be increaſed; and, I am perſuaded, there are not wanting public ſpirited gentlemen in every county in Scotland, who would readily aſſiſt both with their purſes and advice.

The

The Truſtees, of late, have likewiſe given ſome degree of countenance to the Woollen Manufacture. But, I am ſorry to ſay, it is far from being ſuch as might have been expected. They have offered premiums, but of ſo trifling a nature, eſpecially for the Broad Cloth, that few people, I doubt, will be tempted thereby to become competitors. It would have been much better had they advertiſed ſome premiums to the merchant or manufacturer who ſhould export the greateſt quantity of Woollen cloth, and to the nobleman, gentleman, or farmer, who ſhould bring the beſt rams into the country, for bettering our breed of fine woolled ſheep. For the manufacturer and farmer, money might have been offered; and to the nobleman and gentleman, medals, expreſſive of what they were given for. A little of the public money, likewiſe, could not be better employed, than by ſending a few ſheep, ſhearers into ſome parts of the North of Scotland, the Orkneys, Zetland, &c. where, I am informed, they are in uſe to *row* their ſheep, as they call it, that is, pull off the wool with their hands, much to the hurt of the ſheep, as well as the wool. Theſe ſheep-ſhearers ſhould be furniſhed with the proper implements for cutting the wool off the ſheep, in the ſame manner as is practiſed in this country; and they ſhould be directed to inſtruct them as to waſhing the ſheep, cleanſing the wool, and every operation neceſſary, particularly with regard to the dying the different colours, &c. I am convinced, theſe premiums would be of more real ſervice to the country in one year, than all that has been given by the public to force on the *Linen Staple*, as ſome people are pleaſed to call it, ſince the Union.

So far back as the 23d of January laſt, I propoſed that the Linen Hall, which is under the direction of the Truſtees for Fiſheries, Manufactures, &c. ſhould take in Woollen cloth, in the ſame manner as the Linen cloth had been in uſe of being received; that 2-3ds of the value ſhould he paid the proprietor, on delivery of the goods into the Hall, after being valued by people of ſkill; that the remainder of the price ſhould be paid the owner, when turned into caſh; and that no charge ſhould be laid on the manufacturer, but the intereſt of the money advanced.

This would have enabled the manufacturers to have brought their goods to market at little expence, and ſupported them with money to carry on their trade. Which ever of the banks had afforded this ſupply, it could not have failed of turning out greatly to the advantage of the proprietors, as the honeſt tradeſmen would not trouble them for caſh, but take their notes and put them in the true circle, for which

banking

banking was at firſt eſtabliſhed. The ſecurity of pledges of a ſtaple commodity, has always been eſteemed the moſt certain fund. The practice of the moſt ancient banks is the beſt proof that can be given of its utility. Witneſs the banks of Amſterdam, Venice, and Hamburgh, who, adhering ſtrictly to this maxim, receive no other ſecurity than real value pledged with them.

A few months after this, the Truſtees accordingly ordered that Woollen goods ſhould be received into their hall, on the ſame terms with the linen. But, I muſt be pardoned to ſay, that theſe are ſo very diſadvantageous to the manufacturers, that, inſtead of affording them relief, it ſeems rather calculated to put money into the pockets of the ſervants in the hall; for the different charges they receive does not amount to leſs than 5 *per cent.* upon every piece of linen cloth diſpoſed of in that hall; a charge which the profits made upon linen, eſpecially, can by no means bear; nay, I am certain, that many of the manufacturers of that commodity would think themſelves very happy, could they clear 5 *per cent.* altogether upon their trade. How abſurd, therefore, muſt it be, in order to enrich one or two ſervants of the public, to diſtreſs the whole manufacturers of the kingdom? Would it not be much better to give theſe people a ſuitable ſalary, out of the public money, rather than thus to allow them to prey upon the induſtrious, and draw the profit which ſhould fall to the ſhare of the manufacturer, without which it is impoſſible he can ſupport himſelf, his family and dependents? The Linen manufactory being thus diſtreſſed, which has long been the favourite of the Public, it is not to be wondered at, if the Woollen ſhould experience the ſame, if not a worſe fate. This has accordingly happened; not only are the ſame exorbitant *per cents.* demanded; but, what is moſt extraordinary indeed, and would ſcarce have entered into the imagination of any one, except thoſe who think of nothing but their own private emolument, Engliſh Woollen goods are likewiſe received into our Scots Linen hall. A conduct like this, cannot well be accounted for. That a hall, opened for the ſale and encouragement of the manufactures of Scotland, ſhould be made a vehicle for the diſpoſal of goods of another country, reflects very little credit upon the underſtandings or care of thoſe entruſted with the public money; and, if ſo abſurd a practice is not immediately put a ſtop to, the bad effects of it will be ſeverely felt: for, I am perſuaded, had thoſe concerned in it beſtowed their utmoſt pains to find out a method to cruſh our Woollen manufacture in its infancy, they could not poſſibly have fallen upon an expedi-

ent which would more effectually anſwer the purpoſe. I am willing, however, to believe, that theſe proceedings have been carried on without the ſanction, or even knowledge of the Board of Truſtees. Too much has been entruſted to the ſervants in the office, relying on their faithfully diſcharging the truſt repoſed in them; but I have now the happineſs of being informed, by ſome of the honourable members themſelves, that they are ſeriouſly determined to give every aid in their power to the Woollen manufactory; that the diſtribution of the ſeveral premiums were left to the diſcretion of the acting officers; but that it was by no means intended by the Board, that they ſhould have been claſſed in the diſproportionate manner in which they at preſent ſtand; as it is certainly very ridiculous, that the ſame premium ſhould be allowed for the beſt dozen of hats, which is offered for the ſix beſt pieces of broad cloth. The former might have been manufactured for twelve guineas, and the candidates ſhould have been confined to ſuch as they could ſell at that ſum, and have a living profit; while the latter cannot be manufactured at a ſum greatly exceeding one hundred pounds ſterling.

Though premiums, of this kind, are undoubtedly very neceſſary, to encourage thoſe concerned in every manufactory in an infant ſtate, yet I am far from thinking that theſe of themſelves can do the buſineſs required, were the premiums ever ſo well adapted. It is the encouragement of the public at large which muſt bring every undertaking to perfection; and, as each individual is a part of that public, I hope they will no longer entertain an opinion, that becauſe they are ſingle, any effort of theirs can be of very little ſignificancy. This is by no means the caſe. Companies of people entering into aſſociations to wear nothing but the manufactures of their own country, will no doubt have a more immediate effect on the conſumption of theſe articles; but where individuals are perhaps unconnected with ſocieties, and therefore do not chooſe to join with them, they will diſcover as much ſpirit in reſolving in their own minds to follow their example, as if they were conjoined in that aſſociation; providing they are at the trouble, at the ſame time, to ſatisfy themſelves that it is really the manufacture of their own country, which they either purchaſe, or cauſe to be purchaſed for them.

The great, and, indeed, the only purpoſe, that any premium can anſwer, which the Board of Truſtees are enabled to offer, is to inſpire an emulation among the various manufacturers, to excel each other, as far as poſſible, in their different

ferent branches, as to the fineneſs and quality of their goods; and, at the ſame time, to afford them ſome reaſonable hope, that, if they are ſucceſsful, the premium will indemnify them, even though the article for which it was granted ſhould not find a ready market. When manufacturers are once brought to this way of thinking, and to eſteem honour before an immediate trifling profit upon the article under competition, there is no great danger that ever this laudable ſpirit ſhould ſubſide. We are all apt to think as highly of ourſelves as our merit gives us any pretenſions to do, and if a candidate ſhould be unſucceſsful for this year, he will not, for that reaſon, give up the conteſt the next, conſcious to himſelf that he is poſſeſſed of equal abilities, and enjoys every means of manufacturing goods of a quality no way inferior to thoſe of the ſucceſsful candidate. The creating and keeping alive ſuch a ſpirit, I ſay, ſhould be the principal view in granting premiums, and if proper attention was paid to them, the advantages which would thence ariſe could not fail of being productive of very ſalutary effects; for, when a perſon has attempted an improvement in any thing, it is not to be ſuppoſed he will drop it till he thinks he has brought it to perfection, nor will he be deterred from it, even though he ſhould have the misfortune to be unſucceſsful at firſt. Certain I am, that no country in the world is better ſituated for carrying on the Woollen Manufacture to advantage, nor are we deficient in any one article requiſite for that purpoſe, but, on the contrary, enjoy many in a much ſuperior degree to our neighbours. Let us then rouſe from our preſent lethargy, and give encouragement to our Broad Cloth Manufacturers, many of whom have already brought it to that ſtate of perfection which no Scotſman need be aſhamed to wear: and, if they find a ready ſale for it, which entirely depends upon ourſelves, there is no doubt, that, as they are poſſeſſed of the means, ſo neither are they deficient in abilities to manufacture as fine cloth as any in Europe.

Beſides the conſumpt of our own country, this article would find a ready ſale at foreign markets. I now ſet forth what I have learned from experience in my firſt trade; I wiſh it had always been carried on in that manner. I required no money. The honeſt Woollen merchant truſted me ſome pieces of Scots Woollen cloth, from 4 s. to 10 s. per yard, and ſome dozen pairs of Stockings from 20 d. to 4 s. per pair. Theſe goods I bartered at Hamburgh for goods that found ready ſale and good profit here, the ſtockings particularly; for thoſe that coſt me 20 d. per pair, I got one yard of linen, valued there at 30 ſtivers. This I ſold in E-

dinburgh

dinburgh at 3 s. per yard, and a great pennyworth it was. All my hoſe went off in that proportion for ſeveral voyages, till I gave up going to ſea, and could not get a proper perſon to attend it. I wiſh I had never dealt in any other branch, and continued going over to Hamburgh myſelf; in which caſe it is hard to ſay what profit might have been made. I have ſhirts by me, that have been in common uſe of my wearing theſe twenty-ſix years paſt, which coſt me a pair of ſtockings per yard, value 22 d. at Leith; and which any man of buſineſs might wear. They are now worn as thin as a cobweb. I have Scots linen, that I bought only ſeven years ago, which coſt me 5 s. 3 d. per yard, that is now all to pieces, though no oftener worn than in the ordinary courſe with my old Hamburghers.

I thought it neceſſary to mention this circumſtance, in order to ſhew how very ridiculous it is to attempt to rival other countries in what is their natural manufacture, and the more eſpecially as we can be ſupplied with that very article from them, without taking any money out of the country, but by bartering the commodities of our own, which is our natural production, and which gives much better and more lucrative employment to our labouring people, at the ſame time that they can engage in it from a ſtate of infancy, to the very laſt ſtage of old age.

Leaving, now, the Broad Cloth Manufactory, to which I moſt ſincerely wiſh every degree of ſucceſs, and that encouragement from the public, which I flatter myſelf they will think a branch of ſuch vaſt national importance highly merits, I ſhall offer a few obſervations on the Stocking Manufactory.

This branch has long been carried on with a pretty tolerable degree of ſucceſs in different counties of Scotland; but, from a partiality againſt the manufactures of our own country, and in favours of thoſe of foreigners, which I will venture to ſay, is a vice peculiar to the Britiſh nation alone, we do not even ſupply ourſelves with that article, which, were we to follow the example of the Dutch, French, and other nations, who wiſely prefer their own commodities to thoſe of every other country, we might not only manufacture every pair of Stockings neceſſary for our own conſumption, but export great quantities abroad.

Scotland is unqueſtionably poſſeſſed of materials, by which the manufacturer can furniſh ſtockings from 6 d. to 10 s. 6 d. nay even to 40 s. per pair; and I can ſay, from my own experience, that I have purchaſed ſtockings made here, better and cheaper by 10 per cent. than ever I could purchaſe

chaſe Engliſh ſtockings in any ſhop in Edinburgh; yet, to our ſhame be it ſaid, I have known ſome ſhop-keepers in this city remit, or pay thoſe people called *Engliſh Riders*, but more properly *The Drainers of our Specie*, from 3 to 4000 l. ſterling annually. But, that this ſhould continue to be the caſe is ſurely an abſurdity of the firſt magnitude, while we happily poſſeſs many advantages over our induſtrious neighbours; the price of ſpinning, and all ſorts of labour, being much cheaper; and firing, that moſt eſſential article, we have at more moderate rates than the Engliſh, almoſt every part of this country being plentifully ſupplied with excellent coal or turf, at very low prices.

There is no great difficulty in aſſigning a reaſon why, a number of years ago, we ſhould conſume a quantity of Engliſh manufactured ſtockings. They were the firſt who practiſed the method of weaving them in looms, and conſequently could afford to ſell them cheaper than thoſe which were knitted with the hand. But now that we have manufactories of the ſame kind ſet up in many different parts of Scotland, by people well ſkilled in that branch, who can furniſh the public with goods of the ſame quality, and at lower prices, we ſhall certainly be highly inexcuſeable if we prefer the manufacture of England, or any other country, to that of our own; and, if we want knitted ſtockings, I dare venture to affirm, that this country ſtands unrivalled in this article, both as to their quality and fineneſs.

After ſupplying the conſumption of our own country, I am likewiſe ſenſible, that the manufacturer may have a ready ſale for any quantity he can poſſibly work up, at foreign markets.

In the ſeven provinces of Holland they will ſell to good account. Campvere is a free port for the encouragement of this valuable ſtaple of Scotland. They will alſo find a ready market at Bremen, Hamburgh, Lubeck, and Dantzick, all of which are alſo free ports, and ſupply the greateſt part of Europe with theſe goods.

The ſenſible honeſt Zetlanders have long made great quantities of coarſe ſtockings for the Hamburgh market, and get good returns for them; and I have had ſtockings from the wool of that country ſo fine as to be worth 10s. 6d. per pair. No ſilk was finer; and they laſted longer with me than any four pairs of ſilk or worſted ſtockings I ever wore. Indeed, I have been told by a gentleman from England, who has been regularly bred in this branch, that the wool of this country is as fit for making ſtockings, both coarſe

and

and fine, as any wool he ever wrought in England, or got from any other place.

The Stocking Manufactory has indeed an advantage over the Broad Cloth; and that is, that it can be carried on without ſo great a ſtock; the want of which, to the ingenious mechanic and manufacturer, is a great drawback upon the improvements of this country. Happily, however, this difficulty is now beginning to be removed, in a great meaſure, by the public ſpirited conduct of ſeveral noblemen and gentlemen of property, who, with a diſintereſtedneſs worthy of their exalted characters, have eſtabliſhed manufactures of various kinds, in different parts of the country, not ſo much with the view of reaping any advantage to themſelves, as giving bread to the hungry, employing the young as well as the aged, and thus rendering the one uſeful members of ſociety, whom, without being timeouſly inured to labour and induſtry, might have proved the very bane of it; while the other, by being ſupplied with ſuch work as they are capable of performing, inſtead of becoming burdens upon the public, are enabled to maintain themſelves more comfortably and decently, than they poſſibly can be in any Charity Work-houſe.

Such actions as theſe reflect higher honour upon the performers of them, than if they were to beſtow the half of their eſtates upon the poor. The one is doing good to his country, and to the individual at the ſame time; while the other might be the mere effects of a milkineſs of diſpoſition, not able to reſiſt the ſight of an object in diſtreſs, and therefore is ready enough, perhaps, to afford him ſome preſent relief. This will no doubt be thought charity, and I ſhould be ſorry to give it another name, or that the bowels of compaſſion of my fellow countrymen ſhould be ſhut againſt the poor. But ſure I am, he who affords employment, and conſequently prevents poverty, is poſſeſſed of a more exalted notion of charity, and diſtributes it more effectually, than he, who regardleſs of this, and unwilling to put himſelf to any trouble, affords the beggar who comes to his door, a ſmall pittance to prevent him from ſtarving.

Amongſt the number of noblemen and gentlemen, who might be taken notice of, as poſſeſſing this diſintereſted and beſt of all charities, which I have been endeavouring to recommend, I ſhall only mention two at preſent. The one is his Grace the Duke of Argyle; the other Lord Gardenſton.

The former, in conjunction with ſome gentlemen of the county of Argyle, has eſtabliſhed, at Inverary, a manufacture

BRITISH MUSEUM 30 63 NOV

facture of Yarn for coarſe Woollen Cloth and Blankets. It has been found fully to anſwer the laudable purpoſes for which it was intended, and is now in a moſt proſperous ſituation. In this manufactory, ſixty or ſeventy children, belonging to the poor people in the neighbourhood, have conſtant employment at ſpinning and carding. Two of theſe children are allotted to each wheel; the one ſpinning, and the other carding alternately, as conſtant employment, either at the one or the other, would be wearieſome, and create a diſlike, in ſuch young minds, to the work altogether; but by their changing hands, which they do frequently, they begin with freſh vigour and ſpirits, and look upon their work as a kind of amuſement. Theſe poor children, many of whom are under eight years of age, inſtead of being a burden upon their parents, or having an opportunity of learning thoſe vices which are ſo deſtructive to ſociety, and in the end bring ruin upon themſelves, and diſgrace on all their connections, are thus inured to a habit of honeſt induſtry, and generally carry home about two ſhillings each of clear gains weekly to their parents. It would be needleſs here to expatiate on the many advantages which muſt unavoidably reſult from ſo wiſe and ſo humane an inſtitution. Theſe will naturally occur to every feeling heart, and, I hope, will be a ſufficient inducement to others, who have it in their power, to imitate an example ſo truly public-ſpirited, and withal ſo highly charitable.

The other inſtance of public-ſpirit, which I am now to mention, is that practiſed by Lord Gardenſton. His Lordſhip has lately erected a village, ſituated in a fine country, called the *How of the Mearns*. Here, under the patronage of ſo worthy a man, every branch of manufacture, and all kinds of induſtry, are carried on to a ſurpriſing degree. In order to induce manufacturers to ſettle upon this ſpot, every poſſible encouragement is granted. He not only ſupplies them with ground for houſes and gardens, at 3d. per fall, but alſo allows every well recommended ſettler in the village, his houſe and garden rent free, for the firſt ſeven years, and gives premiums to encourage different branches of induſtry.

The improvements made at this place, in planting and hedging, are very extenſive, and thriving better than any I ever ſaw in this, or any other country I have had an opportunity of viſiting.

But, there is one manufactory newly eſtabliſhed at this favourite village, of which I cannot omit taking particular notice; it is the manufacturing of ſtockings on frames or looms.

looms. By this loom, ſtockings, of worſted, thread and cotton, are wrought in a moſt expeditious manner, and can be afforded good at very moderate prices. At the ſame time, Mr Harley, the perſon engaged to ſuperintend this undertaking, employs a number of perſons in knitting ſtockings; by which means cuſtomers can be ſupplied with whatever kind they chuſe. The induſtrious people, to which this manufactory give bread, are very numerous; and the expedition, with which they ſpin both wool and flax, is truly amazing. Here they all ſpin with both hands, with great eaſe, and have two pirns upon each wheel. I have ſeen many girls, not above twelve years of age, ſpin, in this manner, two ſlips a-day.

The improvements made at this place have undoubtedly coſt the proprietor a great outlay of money; but, beſides the inward ſatisfaction which he muſt enjoy in his own mind, by being the means of relieving the diſtreſſes of ſo many of his fellow-creatures, there is every reaſon to expect, that he will, in the end, get ſuitable returns.

As an inſtance how far a good example influences the conduct of others, I am happy here to mention, to the honour of the gentlemen of the Farmers Club of the Mearns, that they ſome time ago, in order to encourage the above Stocking-Manufactory, ordered Mr Harley to make a very pretty uniform of his ſtocking cloth, with the word *Plow* ſtamped on the buttons, and in which dreſs they always appear at their public meetings; nor is there any doubt, that if ſimilar manufactures were ſet up in different counties, but that equal encouragement would be given.

To the honour of the ſame worthy gentleman, I cannot omit taking notice of a very recent inſtance of his public ſpirit. He has lately engaged and ſent North, a native of England, who is acknowledged to be inferior to none of his countrymen, in the profeſſion of Wool-combing. This perſon is not only to ſuperintend that branch at Lawrence Kirk, but is alſo taken bound to inſtruct, in the ſame buſineſs, ſuch young people as his Lordſhip ſhall pitch upon. He has alſo engaged a perſon eminent in the cloth printing way. This gentleman, though a native of Scotland, has long reſided in England, by which he has learned not only to be capital in the cutting of any pattern which may be wanted, but likewiſe underſtands, with a minuteneſs little known in this country, every article in the printing branch. He not only can print cloths at the loweſt value which is worn in this country, but is equally ſucceſsful in producing what may ſuit the firſt lady in the kingdom. If they want Indian chintz, from him they

BRITISH MUSEUM 30 NOV 63

they may have an imitation, which the beſt judges will be at a loſs to diſtinguiſh from an original; and, I have ſo high an opinion of my fair country-women, that, when they diſcover this to be the caſe, which I am certain they will, upon a fair and candid compariſon, they will not have the ſmalleſt difficulty in giving encouragement to the efforts of their own countrymen, in peference to the productions of the eaſt, or any other country under the ſun.

Any eulogium, upon the patron and promoter of theſe patriotic and praiſe-worthy undertakings, were I capable of doing juſtice to his merit, which I confeſs I am not, might be thought flattery. I ſhall therefore only add, that while I ſincerely wiſh his laudable endeavours, to promote the intereſts of his country, may be crowned with ſucceſs, I am certain, after ages will hold in the higheſt degree of reverence and eſtimation, the remembrance of that man, whoſe chief ſtudy, during life, was principally directed to the good of his country, and to giving employment to ſuch, who, without his friendly aſſiſtance might have been reduced to beggary and want.

The only other article with which I ſhall trouble the reader under this Section, which has unavoidably been drawn out to a greater length than I at firſt intended, ſhall be that of Hat-making.

This manufactory is not of an old ſtanding in Scotland, but perhaps has been brought to greater perfection than any other which has hitherto been attempted; and, in the coarſer kinds of it, a conſiderable quantity of wool is made uſe of. Having ſome time ago been in company with ſome of the moſt eminent hat-makers in Scotland, the converſation naturally turned upon the preſervation of the wool moſt adapted for their buſineſs, when it was the unanimous opinion of all preſent, that the ſtore-farmers, and all raiſers of lambs ought to clip their wool off in the month of June or July; that the advantage the breeders of ſheep would reap from ſuch a practice, could not fail of being very conſiderable, as they would always find ready ſale for that wool; that it would alſo be attended with this farther advantage, of making the fleece grow cloſe, and preventing it from ſhading. This practice, it was agreed, would alſo hinder the wet from penetrating into the ſkin, and keep the lambs from throwing their fleece, which they frequently do at the time above mentioned, when nature ſhould be aſſiſted. As this buſineſs is in a very thriving ſituation, I think the ſtore-farmers, and the raiſers of lambs, ſhould take the hint. I am fully perſuaded it would bring a great deal of money into their pockets, and be of eſſential ſervice to the country

in general. From this, and other materials which are produced in our own country, the hat makers here are enabled to make hats from 1 s. to 12 s. 6 d. *per* hat.

All other materials the hat-makers of this country can be ſupplied with upon as eaſy terms as thoſe of any other nation. I am well informed, by ſome ſubſtantial, and long experienced makers of hats, that the pile of fur, on our hare and rabbit ſkins, is even ſuperior to that produced in moſt places in Britain. Indeed, our northern ſituation muſt make it ſo; and as to the making of felt, or wool hats, either for home conſumption or exportation, they can be made in this country, and particularly about this place and Glaſgow, of equal quality, and on as good terms as any where in Great Britain, or even in Europe. If finer hats are required, we can have no difficulty in procuring foreign materials; I mean the fur of the beaver, from which our own manufacturers can make hats from 12 s. 6 d. to the fineſt any country can produce. Theſe materials we can likewiſe have upon the loweſt terms, and of the beſt quality, they being often imported into this country as a branch of trade. But were we even to commiſſion them from London, we can have them brought to the port of Leith upon as ſmall expence as they can be carried to any manufacturing town in England.

I muſt beg leave further to obſerve, that as there are no perſons in this part of the iſland, employed in the making of hats, but ſuch as have ſerved a regular apprenticeſhip of ſeven years to the buſineſs, ſo they cannot but be complete workmen. The conſumpt of hats, for the inhabitants of North Britain alone, may amount to 65,000 pounds ſterling annually: and a quantity much exceeding this in value, might be made for exportation, if ready ſale could be found. Beſides the great quantity of materials, already taken notice of, we have likewiſe hands to carry on this branch to an amazing extent; and, the advantage accruing to the nation, from ſuch an acquiſition of trade, would be flattering, in the higheſt degree, to every lover of his country. Not only would it afford employment to our men brought up to the buſineſs, but even women, boys and girls, might lend their aid, in carding, cleanſing, and picking the materials, as well as in lining and cocking the hats. The hands, thus employed, may earn good wages; the maſters, too, might afford to ſupply them every Saturday night, with as much ready money as would enable them to pay the baker, butcher, and brewer, weekly. Thus might theſe working people live in the ſame manner as their brethren in England do, and make a circulation in every buſineſs in this country.

This

This branch, indeed, ſtands in need of no other encouragement to make it proſper, but that our countrymen ſhould throw off the unnatural partiality they have imbibed in favour of every thing which is foreign; make a fair campariſon between hats manufactured here, and thoſe which are brought from England; and candidly give the preference to that which appears beſt. Were this method to be followed, I have not a doubt that the Scots hat would be found greatly the beſt at the price. I have already obſerved, that our hares and rabbit ſkins are ſuperior to the Engliſh. Every other article made uſe of in the manufacture can be had upon as eaſy terms, many much below, particularly ſervants wages and firing, which is greatly needed in this buſineſs; and I dare venture to affirm, that there are not hat-makers more knowing in their buſineſs, or that employ better hands, than thoſe in this town and neighbour-hood, in any part of Great Britain. Add to this, that they are gentlemen who deal honourably, and will ſerve a perſon who is entirely ignorant of chooſing a good hat, upon the ſame terms with one who is ever ſo well ſkilled. The retail buſineſs, I am certain, they would not have taken up, had our merchants and haberdaſhers done them juſtice in that reſpect; but when that was not the caſe, I muſt applaud their ſpirit, in refuſing to become mere drudges to theſe gentry, moſt of whom, I will be pardoned to ſay, have as little knowledge of the goodneſs of a hat, as the perſon who comes to purchaſe it. To prevent, therefore, their being entirely trampled upon by theſe pretenders to knowledge in the buſineſs which they have made their only ſtudy, ſeveral of them have opened retail ſhops for themſelves. To inform my countrymen, that they can be ſerved upon better terms by the manufacturer himſelf, than by a perſon who perhaps commiſſions the goods from a ſecond or third hand, would be offering a poor compliment to their underſtandings. I rather chuſe to reſt the force of my argument, upon the benefit which muſt reſult to the country, by encouraging its manufactures, than upon any trifling gain which would undoubtedly center in the purchaſers pockets, by applying to the real manufacturer, inſtead of a haberdaſher, who brings large quantities of goods from foreign countries, with which he could be equally well ſupplied at home. A conduct ſuch as this ſurely deſerves the ſevereſt animadverſion, and I hope the public will beſtow it, by deſerting thoſe ſhops which are entirely calculated to drain the country of the ſpecie, and reſorting to ſuch where they are certain it will be employed in giving bread to all around them.

This Section has indeed drawn out to a length which I

little expected. There is, however, one article, which I think of the higheſt conſequence to every branch of the Woollen Manufacture, and which I therefore cannot omit taking notice of. It is with regard to the Cards employed in that buſineſs. It has for ſome time been the ſubject of complaint, that moſt of theſe inſtruments made uſe of in Scotland, have been ſuch as were judged paſt ſervice by the Engliſh, much to the prejudice of the manufacture of Scotland. Every one who knows any thing of this matter muſt be ſenſible, that when the teeth of the cards are broke or deſtroyed, it is impoſſible to make the *rowings*, as they are called, evenly; the thread ſuffers in the ſame manner; and, when it comes to the cloth, inſtead of having it quite ſmooth, as it ought to be, innumerable knots are the conſequence.

Our wiſe neighbours the Engliſh forſaw the bad effects with which ſuch a practice muſt unavoidaby be attended; and, for that reaſon an act of parliament was paſt in the reign of Charles II. prohibiting the importation of foreign wool cards, in the following words: "WHEREAS, by the acts of parliament made in the third year of King Edward IV and the thirty-ninth of Queen Elizabeth, and ſeveral other ſtatutes before that time made, it is enacted (among other things therein contained) That no cards for wool, nor iron thread, (commonly called *white wire*) ſhall be imported, ſent, or conveyed into this realm of England, wherein the beſt iron thread, or wire for making wool cards is made, and by the ſaid manufacture of making and drawing of wire, and wool cards, very many poor people of this kingdom, and their families, have been employed and maintained, and the wool cards made thereof are of great concernment to this kingdom, for the good making of woollen cloth: AND WHEREAS, contrary to the ſaid ſtatutes, not only much foreign card wire, but alſo foreign wool cards, have been in theſe late times imported into this kingdom, and alſo within the ſame, many old wool cards are, by ill diſpoſed perſons, (for their private lucre) bought up, and the old iron wire, of the ſaid old wool cards, being very weak, and inſufficient for the well carding of wool, is put into new leather and new boards, and ſo altered and ſold to ignorant people, for new wool cards, to their great detriment, and the indamaging of their work, carding of wool, and the cloth made thereof; By all which very great inconveniencies have been found, by experience of clothiers, in their making of Engliſh cloth, which is lately much debaſed and decayed, and wherein this nation is greatly concerned, to uphold and encourage the well making thereof, in and by all ways and means, in any ways conducible thereunto: Be it therefore enacted, by the King's moſt excellent Majeſty, by and with the

the advice and conſent of the lords Spiritual and Temporal and the Commons, aſſembled in parliament; and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforeſaid, that no foreign wool cards, or foreign card wire, or iron wire for making of wool cards, be imported into this kingdom of England, dominion of Wales, or any part thereof, nor uſed within the ſame, nor any card wire, taken out of old cards, be from henceforth put into new leather, and new card boards, nor any ſuch wool cards, made thereof, be put to ſale, upon the pains penalties and forfeitures hereafter following; that is to ſay, every perſon or perſons, who ſhall import, or bring any foreign wool cards, or foreign card wire, or iron wire, for making of wool cards, into the kingdom of England, dominion of Wales, or any parts thereof, or make any wool cards of any ſuch old card wire, as aforeſaid, or put the ſame to ſale, ſhall forfeit the ſaid wool cards, and card wire, or iron wire, for making wool cards, or the value thereof if the ſame be not ſeized, the one half part thereof to the King's Majeſty, and the other half part thereof to ſuch perſon or perſons, who ſhall firſt ſeize, or ſue for the ſame, by action of debt, plaint, bill, information, or indictment, in any of his Majeſty's courts of record at Weſtminiſter, or within the county, city, burgh, or town corporate, where ſuch offence ſhall be committed, wherein no eſſeign, protection, wager of law, or injunction, ſhall be allowed or admitted.

"Provided always, that this act ſhall not extend to hinder the owners of any wool cards to cauſe them to be amended, for their own uſe, or to tranſport or ſell (for tranſportation only) all their old worn wool cards, in parts beyond the ſeas, out of his Majeſty's dominions."

Though it might have been expected, that this act would have extended ſo far, as to prevent the importation of theſe ſecond handed cards into Scotland, and though the act itſelf might very naturally bear ſuch a conſtruction, yet as no man, or particular body of men, are by it directed to put the ſame into execution, the conſtant practice has been, of importing ſeveral thouſand dozens of ſecond hand pairs of cards into Scotland annually, to the very great detriment of the Woollen Manufacture, the raw material having been thereby injured, by eſtimation, at leaſt ſix per cent.

So ſenſible were the principal Wollen Manufacturers of this country, of the great loſs the continuance of ſuch a practice muſt be, not only to themſelves, but to the fabric in which they were employed, that ſeveral of them applied to the Board of Truſtees, by a memorial, ſo far back as November 1773, ſtating the fact, and craving that Honourable Board would recommend it to the Royal Burghs, and their Commiſſioners

miſſioners, to apply to the legiſlature to have the prohibition extended to Scotland.

The above application was at this time made, becauſe theſe memorialiſts had been informed, that a law was expected to paſs, the then next ſeaſon of Parliament, making ſundry regulations, with reſpect to the manufactures of this country, and that theſe regulations were principally to be pointed out, by Commiſſioners employed by the Royal Burghs of Scotland.

No notice has hitherto been taken of this memorial; for what reaſon I have not been able to learn. Certain, however, it is, that ſo great an evil requires a ſpeedy and an effectual remedy, as the very exiſtence of our Woollen Manufacture in a great meaſure depends upon it. It would likewiſe employ a number of hands to make ſo great a quantity of cards, as is requiſite for the conſumption of this country, and at the ſame time add conſiderably to his Majeſty's revenue of exciſe, becauſe the quantity of leather neceſſary for that purpoſe would be at leaſt 2000 lib. weight, and this leather pays a duty of three half pence *per* pound.

I have already endeavoured to apologiſe for the length of this ſection. I hope the importance of the ſubject will be thought the beſt I can offer. That it may be viewed in the ſame light by the reſt of my fellow countrymen; and that proper encouragement may be given to the ſeveral branches I have taken notice of, is my utmoſt wiſh. Many other articles, in the woollen way, fell properly to be mentioned under this ſection; but theſe, as they are of a more triffling nature, for the ſake of brevity, I have not inſiſted upon. Indeed, if the principal branches are duly attended to, the inferior ones will follow of courſe.

SECTION

SECTION III.

Of the FISHERIES. *This being an article of trade, in the proſecution of which we require no foreign aid, and may acquire many and great advantages, ſhould therefore be purſued with unremitting perſeverance and activity.*

IT is an obſervation founded on the experience of ages, that the leſs expence and outlay of money, which is employed in any branch of trade, ſo much the greater reaſon has the adventurer in that trade to hope for ſucceſs.

This obſervation, I humbly conceive, could never be applied with more propriety than in the preſent inſtance.

In many branches of this trade, the proſecutors of it are relieved from ſeveral articles of charge, which unavoidably fall upon thoſe employed in almoſt every other occupation.

I ſhall only inſtance a few. The farmer, after purchaſing all the utenſils made uſe of in huſbandry, as well as the grain which he puts into the ground, muſt likewiſe, beſides maintaining his labourers, pay very largely to the proprietor of that ground, for the liberty of tilling it.——The manufacturer; the merchant; in ſhort every perſon whatever, who carries on any buſineſs, as well as thoſe who do not, whether they reſide in town or country, have innumerable articles to pay for, of which thoſe who plow the watery ocean, in ſearch of fiſh, that great ſource of riches to every country, whoſe ſituation affords an opportunity of catching them, are entirely relieved. After they have once furniſhed out their Buſſes or Veſſels, they have little other expence to look for; and even in this, they are wiſely aſſiſted by government in various inſtances. They are loaded with no ſhop rents; no public burdens to the King or Royal Burghs; nor do they pay any thing for tilling that element, from which they expect to reap their harveſt. Theſe, ſurely, are encouragements which ought not to be ſlighted: But, though none ſuch had any exiſtence, I may venture to affirm, that this trade, if properly managed, would turn out a lucrative one to the adventurer, and a certain fund of wealth to the nation in general.

There are different kinds of fiſheries which may be carried

ried on with great advantage. Theſe I ſhall ſpeak to in the following order:

Firſt, The Salmon-fiſhing, carried on in rivers, and in a certain part of the ſea, into which theſe rivers empty themſelves.

Secondly, The Whale-fiſhing, carried on in Greenland.

Thirdly, The Cod and Ling-fiſhing, which may be carried on in many places to advantage, and particularly on the coaſts oppoſite to the Weſt Highlands; as well as in various ſalt-water lochs, ſeveral of which run far up the country. And,

Fourthly, The Herring; or, as it is commonly called, *The White Herring Fiſhery*.

It will not be neceſſary to beſtow many words upon the *firſt* of theſe articles. All the Salmon fiſhings in Scotland, originally, and of right, belonged to the Sovereign; but were granted, upon different occaſions, to the Royal Burghs, next adjacent to theſe rivers, or to the Noblemen and Gentlemen, whoſe eſtates lay upon their banks. Several burghs ſtill retain the property of them; others, not thinking them of great conſequence, as indeed they were not ſome centuries ago, granted the rights they had acquired from the Sovereign, either to ſome leading man in the burgh, or to ſome nobleman or gentleman in the neighbourhood, ſometimes for a trifling conſideration, and at others on account of ſome real or imaginary ſervice done the community.

The importance, however, of theſe fiſhings, which formerly were thought of ſo little conſequence, now afford an article of commerce highly beneficial to this country. We owe our improvements in many branches to our intercourſe with the Engliſh; but in nothing more than in this article. Salmon-fiſhings, which formerly were of little or no eſtimation, by Engliſh adventurers taking tacks of them, now give employment and bread to many induſtrious people, and bring a great deal of money into the country, at the ſame time that they enrich the proprietors. I believe, I may venture to ſay, that, next to the article of our Black Cattle, Salmon brings more ready caſh into the country, than any other in which we deal. It has this further advantage, that every ſixpence which is produced by ſuch commerce, is earned almoſt entirely at the expence of bodily labour; nor is there the ſame danger in over-fiſhing a river, which there is in over-labouring a field of corn-ground. The one may be ſcourged in ſuch a manner as to be rendered uſeleſs for years to come. The other, if proper attention is paid to the preſervation of the ſpawn, which every ſkilful perſon will take care ſhall be the caſe, is plentifully ſupplied by the luxuriance

of

of that ocean, which is Britain's greateſt boaſt, and the ſource of all its riches, and of all its glory.

Such being the ſituation of moſt of the Salmon fiſhings in Scotland, it would be needleſs in me to dwell longer upon them. I am perſuaded they are at preſent under as proper management as the nature of the thing will admit of; and I hope, for the ſake of this country, they will long continue to be ſo.

The next article I propoſed to ſpeak to, under this Section, was that of the *Greenland Fiſhery*.

This branch of trade has undoubtedly brought a great deal of money into the country, or which is the ſame thing ſaved much from going out of it. I was among the firſt who promoted it in this country; was one of the firſt named as a manager of the Edinburgh Whale-fiſhing Company; among the firſt who ſubſcribed to the ſtock; and has more of the ſtock in my name, at this day, than any one partner of that Company. With a few other merchants in Edinburgh, I fitted out two other ſhips for the Greenland trade, viz. the Prince and Princeſs of Wales, and continued the trade ſeveral years; and after this I bought two ſhips of the Edinburgh Whale-fiſhing Company, on my own proper account, in which ſome gentlemen joined me, and took one half concern; but I held the other half of both ſhips, and all the materials and ſtores, which, I believe, was riſquing more in the trade, than has been done by any man in Scotland; and I continued this till one of the ſhips, the Edinburgh, was loſt in the ice; after which I ſtill continued the ſhip Leith for eleven years more, though with very bad ſucceſs.

I have been the more particular on this article, as an anonymous writer, under the ſignature of *Scotiæ Amicus*, has taken it upon him to advance, that I was ſoon tired of one branch of buſineſs. The above, I think, is a ſufficient confutation of that allegation; and, had this anonymous gentleman been at the trouble of examining the Cuſtom-houſe books in Leith, before he had adventured on his hearſay ſtory, he would have there ſeen, that I likewiſe purſued another branch of trade, with ſteadineſs, for twenty years gether, viz. the Hamburgh trade.

The length of time, in which I was engaged in the Whale-fiſhing buſineſs, afforded me many opportunities to be thoroughly acquainted with the nature of it, and from thence I can venture to ſay, that, if it is properly managed, it may turn out a ſtill more lucrative branch of trade than it has hitherto done.

The government continues to give a very handſome premium to thoſe who chuſe to fit out ſhips for this fiſhery: and

the conditions upon which this premium is to be obtained, are ſo wiſely framed, that the ſhip would be unfit for the voyage, were any one of them to be omitted; nay, ſhould the premium be diſcontinued, which probably will be the caſe ſome years hence, thoſe who fit out ſhips for the Greenland fiſhery, will find it neceſſary to furniſh them with every article the government has ſpecified they ſhall have to be entitled to the premium.

Some Companies in Scotland, particularly the Dunbar Whale-fiſhing Company, have made very handſome profits by this trade. The Edinburgh Whale-fiſhing Company might likewiſe have made conſiderably more than they have done, had they not fully inſured every ſhip. This practice took away a great deal of profits, which otherwiſe would have fallen to have been divided among the adventurers. Though I am far from being an enemy to Inſurance, but on the contrary, think it a wiſe and a very ſalutary meaſure, yet where the Adventurers are ſo numerous as in the Edinburgh Whale-fiſhing Company, and the ſhares ſo ſmall, I cannot help thinking, that Inſurance, in that particular, was very unneceſſary; for, ſuppoſing the worſt that could have happened, that ſome of their ſhips had been loſt, that loſs was to fall upon ſo many, and in ſuch ſmall ſums, that they would not have felt it. The Dunbar Whale-fiſhing Company inſure none of their ſhips; and it is owing, in a great meaſure, to this, that they have been enabled to divide ſo much more profits than the other. At the ſame time that I am of this opinion with regard to large Companies, I am equally clear, that where only one, or even a ſmall Company, are engaged in an adventure of that nature, they ſhould never allow their ſhips to go to ſea without being inſured, becauſe the loſs, if any were to happen, as it behoved to be borne by a few, would conſequently fall very heavy upon them; and the premium for Inſurance, in ſuch caſes, ſhould be conſidered by them as an object of no conſequence, when, perhaps, their whole fortunes were in the balance.

The Ling, Cod, and Tuſk-fiſhing, might alſo be rendered a very important branch of trade to this country. It may be carried on with great ſucceſs on the coaſts of Orkney and Zetland, as well as on thoſe of the Weſt Highlands, and in the various ſalt-water lochs, with which that country abounds.

I muſt, however, take notice of one very neceſſary precaution to be obſerved in this, as well as the Herring-fiſhing, and that is, with regard to the killing and ſalting them in proper time, after they are catched. Every one knows, that the blood of all living creatures, after they are deprived of

breath

ſuddenly congeals: and, if not taken off, by ſome means or other, corrupts and renders uſeleſs the whole body. In creatures of fat or oily ſubſtances, ſuch as the herring, this, in a peculiar manner, muſt be the caſe. To prevent, therefore, ſo great a misfortune, I would recommend it to thoſe employed in our fiſheries, immediately when they get the fiſh upon deck, to cut their throats with a ſmall knife. They will then bleed freely, which cannot happen, if they are allowed to die by any other means. After this the gills and guts are to be taken out, and the fiſh inſtantly ſalted. This ſimple proceſs will render the fiſh wholeſome, and quite white and tranſparent. It will have this further advantage; a great deal leſs ſalt will be neceſſary; whereas, if they are allowed to lie a few hours dead, without being bled, as above-mentioned, more ſalt will be needed; the fiſh will not be ſo good; and the herring, in particular, owing to its fatneſs, by that time, will be advanced in ſuch a ſtate of corruption, that all the ſalt on board will not be ſufficient to cure them.

The Dutch, who are allowed, on all hands, to be excellent fiſhermen, obſerve this method; and I would beg leave, in a particular manner, to recommend the practice of it to my countrymen, as I am convinced they would ſoon ſee the ſalutary effects of it, by getting the preference at the market, to thoſe, who, through indolence or inattention, neglected to cure their fiſh after this manner.

So nice, indeed, are the Dutch in this reſpect, that thoſe of ſuperior rank will not touch a fiſh, which comes dead to market. This makes them famous for having the fineſt of fiſh at their tables. Their fiſhermen have well-boats on purpoſe to keep them alive, and I have ſeen ſix ſtivers, equal to our ſixpence halfpenny, given for a haddock alive, when ſix of the ſame ſort of fiſh, which had been brought dead to market, might have been purchaſed for that money.

In further corroboration of the propriety of this manner of curing fiſh, I cannot here omit taking notice of two cargoes of Ling and Cod, which were brought to Leith this year. The one belonged to Mr James Chalmers merchant in Leith, and the other to Captain William Ferguſon, of Peterhead. Theſe cargoes were caught in the Weſt Highlands, and moſt part of them in Loch Gairloch. Both were cured in the manner I have been recommending; both found ready ſale and were indeed excellent fiſh, being ſo white and clean that one might have ſeen through them by holding them betwixt one and the light. The fiſh of the firſt mentioned cargo, however, was pleaſanter to the taſte than the laſt, though both were equally clean and well cured. This difference I can attribute ſolely to the former's being cured with great or foreign ſalt, while

the proprietor of the other cargo made uſe of nothing but native or ſmall ſalt.

The laws with regard to the duties on foreign ſalt, to be uſed in our fiſheries, are in many reſpects confuſed and perplexed, and the officers, whoſe province it is to collect or inſpect the ſalt revenue, often ſtretch points, which are not very clear, too far; by which means, many who would make uſe of foreign ſalt, which is undoubtedly much ſuperior for the purpoſes above mentioned, to that of our own country produce, are afraid to do ſo, on account of the heavy duty.

The legiſlature, who, much to the honour of thoſe who are at the helm of affairs, gives every encouragement to the Newfoundland and all other branches of fiſhing, I am perſuaded, do not tie up the hands of thoſe officers or inſpectors in ſuch a manner, as that they might not take the ſame duties for a certain quantity of white fiſh cured with that ſalt, for home conſumption, which they do for herrings. The duty paid for the ſalt uſed in curing one barrel of herrings, is a ſhilling. I would therefore propoſe, that the like ſum, and no more, ſhould be paid for as much foreign ſalt as would be ſufficient to cure, for home conſumption, 300 lib. weight of ling, cod, tuſk, or any other ſalt-water fiſh.

Indeed, the Dutch are ſo fully convinced of the utility of having a plentiful ſupply of ſalt, properly adapted for their fiſheries, that they impoſe no duty whatever on foreign ſalt, and I am apt to think it would ſhew the wiſdom of our legiſlature, were they to follow their example. The foreign ſalt, thus imported into their country, free of all duties, they boil up, which renders it ſtronger and fairer. This they call *ſalt upon ſalt*. Leſs of it cures the fiſh, while, at the ſame time, it likewiſe keeps them pure and white, even to the very bone.

No nation, I dare venture to ſay, underſtands trade better than the Dutch; and, for that very reaſon, there is no nation which lays fewer reſtraints upon it. The fiſheries they conſider as a capital branch, and therefore clog it with no incumbrances. I am fully convinced it might be rendered equally capital to Great Britain, and can ſee no good reaſon why we ſhould not ſhew the ſame regard to its intereſts.

But, it is now time to ſay ſomething on the Herring fiſhery, which was the laſt article I propoſed to treat of under this Section.

This fiſhing, the Dutch honours with the name of the *great Fiſhing*. The Whale-fiſhing, as being only a ſecondary branch to it, they term the *claine*, or *ſmall fiſhing*. Our Weſtern Higlands are moſt excellently ſituated for carrying on this great trade, as well as the Ling, Cod, and Tuſk fiſhings.

Nature

Nature has ſupplied them with ſo many fine inlets from the ſea, called *lochs*, and ſuch excellent harbours in theſe lochs, that no perſon could figure their ſafety and conveniency, without being on the ſpot, and viewing them.

For the encouragement of this great branch, government has beſtowed ſeveral premiums; nor can it be ſaid that they are diſtributed with a niggard hand. I muſt, however, be forgiven to obſerve, that the legiſlature, when they granted theſe premiums, do not ſeem to have been ſo well informed, (I am certain they are not ſo judiciouſly applied) as when they granted the premiums to the Whale-fiſhery. In this branch, no article of tackling, ſtores, &c. is impoſed upon the adventurer, but what he neceſſarily behoved to take along with him, even had he not been tied down by the law, if he wiſhed to be ſucceſsful. In the herring-fiſhing, I am ſorry to ſay, this is far from being the caſe. The adventurers in this branch are obliged to furniſh their veſſels or buſſes with many articles, which are ſo far from being neceſſary, that they are even incommodious, and anſwer no other purpoſe than putting the adventurers to an additional outlay of money. Among ſeveral of theſe articles which might be taken notice of, I ſhall only mention one, which conſiſts with my own knowledge, and of which I have heard many complaints from different perſons, who gave up the trade on that account. The article I mean, is the great quantity of nets they are ordered to carry out, each veſſel or buſs being obliged to have 250 ſquare yards of nets on board, for every ton they meaſure, which, I am perſuaded, is at leaſt the double of what is neceſſary, the one half being generally rotten and ſpoiled, as it is impoſſible to uſe them, or get them properly dried, if they could be made uſe of.

This, however, I only mention as an objection, amongſt many others, which might be offered, to the law as it preſently ſtands. My great objection is to the law itſelf, and I ſhall ſubmit it to the public with that deference which becomes an individual, when treating of matters of public concern, and, at the ſame time, with that freedom which is the undoubted privilege of every Briton.

By the law, as it preſently ſtands, the veſſels employed in the Herring-fiſhing, entitled to the bounty, muſt be of the ſize of 20 tons and upwards. Theſe veſſels, before they can receive a certificate, muſt be furniſhed with the ſtipulated quantity of nets, caſks, ſalt, and number of hands, which, at a medium, makes the coſt and outfit of every one of theſe veſſels, amount to no leſs a ſum than 800l. ſterling.

It muſt occur to every one, that ſo large a ſum as this is not eaſily raiſed in the Weſt Iſlands of Scotland, which puts

it

it out of the power of thoſe who lie in the very heart of the fiſhing country, from availing themſelves of what the public principally meant to give them, employment, and what nature had likewiſe ſo ſtrongly pointed out, in affording them ſo excellent a ſituation for carrying on this branch of trade.

After giving employment to the inhabitants, and encouraging a new ſpecies of merchandize in this country, the government's next view, in granting theſe bounties, undoubtedly was, to rear up a hardy and uſeful body of ſeaman, who, in times of emergency, might be called forth to vindicate the rights of Great Britain.

I am far from denying, that the intentions of government have been fully anſwered in every one of theſe views; but, if they can be rendered ſtill more extenſive, it ſurely merits the mature conſideration of the public. With this deſign, I humbly beg leave to lay before them the following plan; which, I am perſuaded, were it, or any ſimilar one adopted, might be attended with many ſalutary conſequences.

Government allows a bounty of 30s. per ton, on all veſſels fitted out, as already mentioned, for the White Herring-fiſhery. This bounty is paid on the arrival of the veſſels, or a very ſhort time thereafter, whether they are ſucceſsful or not, providing it appears, to the ſatisfaction of the proper officers, that the maſters and crews have done their duty; and there is no manner of doubt, it has been of much advantage to the country; a great number of veſſels, or buſſes, having been fitted out in conſequence thereof; who have met with a degree of ſucceſs laſt year, hitherto unknown, but which may reaſonably be expected to increaſe, if followed out with perſeverance.

I ſhall ſuppoſe, that for ſeveral years paſt, at a medium, 150 buſſes have been fitted out annually for this trade, and that about 10,000l. ſterling of bounty have been paid upon them. I ſhall alſo ſuppoſe, that the quantity of Herrings caught by theſe buſſes, dividing the bounty by the number of barrels properly cured and packed for the market, may amount to 3s. 6d. per barrel, reckoning the number of barrels at about 60,000. This is paid by the bounty on the buſſes, and if all, or any part of theſe herrings are exported, the merchant receives from the public, another bounty of 2s. 8d. per barrel.

Many people may think, that government could not poſſibly have deviſed a more probable method of giving ſtability to the Britiſh Herring-fiſhery, than by affording the bounties and encouragements which I have faithfully narrated above; and I have already acknowledged, that they have been productive of many ſalutary effects. But experience has convinced

vinced me, that these bounties, salutary and efficacious as they certainly have been, may still be put upon a better footing; which leads me to the plan I humbly presume to lay before the Public.

Instead, therefore, of giving the bounty upon the ton of shipping, which is now the case, my proposal is, that it should be bestowed upon the herrings. Were the legislature to enact, That for every barrel of herrings caught and properly cured for home consumptiou, a bounty of 3 s. and 6 d. per barrel should be paid, and 6 s. 2 d. for every barrel exported, without any limitations with regard to the mode of catching them, I cannot entertain a doubt, that every purpose, proposed by government from the present bounty, would be answered.

It may be objected to this plan, that the same number of seamen would not be bred, as by the present mode of giving the bounty; for that, as the vessels or busses are obliged, before they receive the bounties, to produce certificates of their having fished both seasons, that is, summer and winter, so the boys and men employed in them, are hardy and fit for any service; whereas, were the bounties to be given as I have proposed, a great deficiency in our able bodied seamen would be the consequence, as most of the fishery would then be carried in open boats, which would only be a nursery for fishermen instead of seamen.

But to this, I beg leave to answer, in the *first* place, That though a great number of hands would undoubtedly be employed in open boats, yet it does not from thence follow, that the fishing by vessels or busses would be given up. This I am far from thinking would be the case; on the contrary, I imagine their numbers would rather be encreased; for, as the adventurers would not then be subject to the hardships they at present labour under, on the outfit of their vessels, before they can be entitled to the bounty; so, when they had it in their own power, to act in that matter as they thought proper, and were to receive a bounty equivalent to the quantity of herrings caught and properly cured by them, what they saved on the furnishings of the vessels would probably be bestowed on engaging an additional number of hands; it being natural to suppose, that the more of these which were employed, the greater chance would there be of catching a larger quantity of fish, which behoved then to be their only object. But,

2dly, Suppose the alteration I have proposed should, instead of increasing, decrease the number of vessels employed in this branch, which I am far from thinking would be the case; yet, still the additional number of hands which my scheme

ſcheme muſt give bread to, would do much more than compenſate for any deficiency that could poſſibly happen by ſuch an alteration. I have already obſerved, that the fitting out of a veſſel in ſuch manner as to be entitled to the bounty, comes to ſo large a ſum, that it is altogether out of the power of moſt people, who reſide in theſe places beſt adapted for carrying on the fiſhing, at all to engage in it. Were my plan to be adopted, however, there is not an idle hand but what might be employed, much to their own advantage, as well as to the benefit of their country. The boats and tackling, neceſſary for this buſineſs, might be purchaſed at an eaſy rate, and the regard for the bounty would be a great ſtimulative for perſons of all ranks and ages to engage in it. I may likewiſe venture to ſay, that this would prove as good a nurſery for ſeamen as the other. Boys of almoſt every age may be employed in this ſort of fiſhing; they are expoſed to hardſhips unknown to thoſe who ſail on board decked veſſels, and therefore prove the beſt of ſeamen. For my own part, I always preferred ſuch; and, though they might be a little aukward at firſt, in ſix months time they generally proved the moſt neceſſary hands on board.

Theſe are ſome of the advantages, which I think could not fail of following the propoſed alteration of the bounties upon herrings. Many others might be taken notice of: I ſhall, however, content myſelf at preſent with only mentioning one more, which is, that by their putting all our people in motion, and having no idle hands in thoſe places, to which the herrings reſort, we might ſoon be enabled to drive the Dutch, and every other nation, out of the market. This, indeed, is the great object to be ſtudied in every branch of trade or manufacture; for, if we allow foreigners either to underſel us, or to ſupply other countries with better goods than we can do, it is not to be expected that theſe countries ſhould deal with us. If, however, all our idle hands were employed, a premium given to make them induſtrious, and the duties taken off the foreign ſalt, it is impoſſible this could be the caſe. It is well known the Dutch catch the moſt of the fiſh they export off our own coaſts. Should not this lead us ſeriouſly to reflect, what a reproach it is to the good ſenſe and underſtandings of the Britiſh nation, to lie idle by, and ſee the inhabitants of any other country, enriching themſelves with what nature has in a peculiar manner beſtowed upon us, if we will only be at the trouble of ſeeking after it? I hope this folly will ſoon be got the better of; and, I do think, the adopting a plan ſimilar to the one above mentioned, is the moſt probable method of attaining an end of ſo much

natural conſequence: the completion of which ought earneſtly to be wiſhed for, by every real friend to his country.

I took the liberty of recommending to thoſe of my countrymen, who are, or may be employed in the Ling and Cod fiſhery, to follow the method practiſed by the Dutch in the proſecution of that buſineſs. I am ſo fully convinced of their ſkill in the herring branch, that I would beg leave to recommend them as patterns worthy of imitation in it likewiſe. Indeed, they have long had the reputation of curing their herrings the beſt of any other people. It is not, however, a very difficult matter to equal them in this, which certainly is a very eſſential article.

The method is ſimply this, They ſhoot their nets in the evening about ſun ſet, and haul them in again before ſun riſe in the morning. So ſoon as they get the fiſh on board they cut their throats, as deſcribed under the article of Ling, &c. and ſalts them immediatly, ſo that they are in a manner cured alive. This is a very eaſy proceſs, but it is a proceſs which muſt be exactly followed, if clean wholeſome fiſh are expected. Having, however, ſpoken pretty fully to it under the preceding article, it would be unneceſſarily taking up the time of the reader to dwell longer upon it.

Before I conclude this Section, I muſt be forgiven to ſay a few words, with regard to the manner in which the great Holland fiſheries are carried on. In that country all ranks and orders of people are concerned in them. There is ſcarce a footman or ſervant maid in Holland, or any of the other provinces, who is not an adventurer, as ſhares may be purchaſed from twenty guilders to twenty thouſand.

I would beg leave to aſk, Whether the Dutch are not worthy of imitation in this reſpect alſo? and, whether Companies of this ſort, eſtabliſhed in Scotland, would not be of infinite advantage to this country?

We are at no loſs to find many people here, who are apt enough, after the example of the Engliſh, to enter into companies, or clubs, for the purpoſe of ſplitting lottery tickets; and ſhall we be difficulted to procure adventurers in a branch of trade which promiſes ſuitable returns?——God forbid!—The former is the worſt and moſt pernicious ſort of gaming. It ſtrikes at the very root of both honeſty and induſtry, and will infalliably deſtroy both in the end, if carried on with the ſame unremitting ardour for a ſhort time longer with which it has been indulged for ſome years paſt. Of late it has encreaſed to a moſt amazing height. We have lottery offices in every corner of almoſt every trading town in Scotland. A bad ſpecimen, I muſt acknowledge, with regret, of the induſtry aud improvements of this coun-

try. How much more good ſenſe would the inhabitants of theſe towns diſcover, in beſtowing what trifle they could ſpare from their ordinary buſineſs, in eſtabliſhing Companies in the manner of the Dutch! They would then be purſuing a real ſubſtance; and, if it ſhould chance to evade their graſp, which is not very probable, their loſs would not be great, while they would have the inward ſatisfaction of reflecting, that they had been the means of giving bread to ſo many induſtrious people, who, without ſuch well-timed aſſiſtance, might have become an intolerable burden to themſelves, as well as to the public. I am certain the adventurers in the lottery can have no ſuch conſolation. If they are loſers, which is much more than probable will be the caſe; to whom does that loſs grant relief? Not to the induſtrious; but to a parcel of drones, who, incapable of engaging in any branch of buſineſs of real utility, betake themſelves to that which requires neither head nor hands to execute; and, while they pretend to calculate chances, are, in reality, picking the pockets of the unwary.

Let me, then, ſeriouſly recommend it to the people of this country to beſtow their money where there is at leaſt every probability of advancing the improvements of it. The Engliſh are in many reſpects worthy of imitation; but let us not, for that reaſon, copy their vices; a more deteſtable one, I confeſs, I do not know them guilty of, than that which I have been endeavouring to explode.

SECTION

SECTION IV.

Of PORTER. *That we ought to give encouragement to the Brewers of it, and other malt liquors in our own country, in preference to the London Porter Brewers.*

WANT of money is almoſt an univerſal complaint in this country; and it is noways ſurpriſing it ſhould be ſo, when it is conſidered how very fond we are of ſending it abroad, for what we could either eaſily want, or manufacture at home. I imagine I am not far wrong in my calculation, when I eſtimate the money remitted annually to England, for the two articles alone of broad cloth and London Porter, at the enormous ſum of, 200,000 pounds ſterling. Of the former I have already treated pretty fully. I ſhall now ſay a few words on the latter.

That the brewers of Porter in this country have arrived at the ſame degree of perfection with thoſe in London; is what I will not pretend to ſay; nor, indeed, can it ever be the caſe, ſo long as we give encouragement to the Engliſh, and with-hold it ſo much from the Porter Brewers of our own country.

Before this liquor is in a proper condition for drinking, it muſt be kept a conſiderable time. This requires that large quantities of it ſhould be brewed at once; but, while we are ſo partial in favours of the London Porter, it is not to be expected that our brewers will riſk their whole ſtock upon an article, which, from the infatuation of their countrymen, may be rendered a loſing trade.

Several brewers, however, in this town and neighbourhood, have, of late, done a good deal in the porter branch; and though, perhaps they have not brought it to to the ſame perfection with the London Porter, owing to the cauſe already noticed, yet, I am perſuaded it is more wholeſome, and leſs adulterated with ſmall beer, than moſt of that liquor which is ſold in our taverns and public houſes for London Porter. It may not, indeed, be exactly of the ſame flavour; but this ſurely cannot be attributed to the unſkilfulneſs

neſs of our brewers, or a deficiency of materials neceſſary for its manufacture.

I know it has been advanced, that Porter cannot be made without Thames water; but this is a moſt ridiculous notion. Mr Combrune, who wrote a very ſenſible eſſay on brewing, laughs at that vulgar prejudice. Every man of ſenſe, with whom I have converſed on the ſubject, does the ſame; and I am well informed, that, even in London, where one butt of porter is brewed of Thames water, there are ten made from the New River, and other water about that metropolis; nor is there better ſoft water in Britain, than that with which this city and neighbourhood is ſupplied.

To ſay that the people of this country have not genius to arrive at perfection in this branch, is equally ridiculous, and an inſult on their underſtandings. Inſtances innumerable might be given to ſhew the futility of this argument. A few ſhall ſuffice. It is not many years ſince the Soapery and Glaſshouſes were ſet a-going at Leith, and up-hill work it no doubt was for ſome time; but, by perſeverance and application, theſe people became as good ſoft ſoap-boilers and bottle-makers, as any in the kingdom. The prejudice againſt our ſoft ſoap was even greater then, than it is againſt the porter at preſent; in ſo much that the manufacturers were obliged, for ſeveral years, to ſend it up to Newcaſtle, in order that they might get it ſold in Scotland, upon its return, for Engliſh ſoap. This prejudice is now entirely got the better of; and the manufacturing of theſe two articles, ſoap and bottles, ſave a great deal of money to the country; but I hope ſoon to ſee the woollen goods, and our home-brewed porter, ſave ten times more than both. The genius of our countrymen likewiſe appears, from the ſatisfaction they give their employers, in the works carried on in the Caldtown of Edinburgh in the chimney way, at Preſtonpans, Carron, and ſeveral other places which might be mentioned.

The money which goes out of the country for the article of porter alone, is really ſhameful, and would ſcarce be credited, if the fact was not well known. For ſeveral years paſt, the quantity brought into Leith, and the other parts in the Frith of Forth, exceeds 30,000 l. ſterling per annum; and I imagine Dundee, Montroſe, Aberdeen, Inverneſs, and all the other ports of Scotland, cannot be eſtimated at leſs than 20,000 l. more. A pretty ſum this, truly, to be paying for an article we can ſo well do without. I would be glad to know what became of our forefathers, who never taſted, nor thought of it? Good ſtrong ale and two-penny pleaſed them; and they were as merry and good company

over

over it, as their deſcendants are over their porter. It is, beſides, a moſt expenſive drink; as people but of low circumſtances, who indulge themſelves in this piece of luxury, will toſs off their two or three bottles at a few draughts; and, I am ſorry to ſay, this extravagance has now arrived at a pitch hitherto unknown in this country. We have numberleſs clubs in this city, whoſe meetings ſeem to be calculated for no other purpoſe, than that of guzzling down ſo many bottles of London porter as amounts to the quota they are reſolved to ſpend, while, perhaps, their wives and children at home, ſtand in need of many things which are abſolutely neceſſary for the ſupport and maintenance of the family.

I am far from meaning, that friendly ſocial meetings of companions ſhould be aboliſhed or given up. After the toils of the day, a little indulgence of that kind is very pardonable; but I would have my countrymen, even in their convivial, as well as ſerious moments, to have the intereſts of the place of their nativity in view; and, while they do ſo, in the article of drinking, as well as every other which I have been endeavouring to recommend, I am perſuaded they will at the ſame time ſtudy the intereſt of their families, and of their own pockets; for I have ſeen the bill at drinking porter run higher, than a claret bill did ſome years ago. I have already acknowledged, that we have not as yet arrived at ſuch a degree of perfection in brewing it, as they have in London; but I dare venture to ſay, there are many porter brewers in and about this city, who make ſuch porter as any Scotſman may be pleaſed with. I beg leave to mention the following, *viz.* Meſſrs. George Millar, St Ann's yards; James Hotchkiſs, Graſs-market; Archibald Campbell, Cowgate; Gardner and company, Gooſedub, all in and about Edinburgh; and Meſſrs. Cundel and Son, and Matthew Comb, at Leith.

I likewiſe hinted, that the London porter conſumed in our taverns and public houſes was not genuine, but adulterated with ſmall beer. To eſtabliſh this fact, let any perſon go into a tavern or public houſe, in Edinburgh or Leith, and drink this dear *ſtuff*; for ſo I call it; it is not genuine porter; and they will find at leaſt one third, if not one half of the drink in the bottle, ſmall beer. Whether the mixture is made in London, in Leith, in Edinburgh, or perhaps partly in all the three, is noways material to the drinkers. Sure I am, they pay high to pleaſe their corrupt taſtes; for, what with the ſmallneſs of the bottle, and the quantity of ſmall beer glutted down along with it, the drinker pays at the rate of ſeven-pence for every Engliſh quart or Scots chopin. On the other hand, good Scots porter, without any adulteration,

ration, can be had at three-pence the bottle, and excellent ſtrong ale at the ſame price; both which are better worth the money, than the adulterated traſh, which is drunk by hundreds of dozens in a day, in and about this metropolis. It is nothing but prejudice in ſome, and ſelf-intereſt in others, which has brought this deſtructive branch of buſineſs to ſo great a height.

It is truly amazing what averſion we have to every thing made in our own country. Better ale, ſmall beer, and two-penny, I am perſuaded, cannot be had in any country whatever; and why we ſhould not be ſatisfied with theſe, and ſuch porter as we can make among ourſelves, is very unpardonable. I am afraid we deſerve, in part, what Mr Glover ſome time ago ſaid of us, that we had every ſenſe but common ſenſe; for I do think, that a Scotſman, who will not wear good cloth, becauſe made here, and refuſes to drink good porter, becauſe brewed in or about Edinburgh, in a great meaſure verifies that gentleman's aſſertion, and may juſtly be ſaid to have no regard whatever for his country.

I however hope, that this folly is wearing out in a great meaſure, ſo much London porter not having been imported this year as has been for ſeveral preceding ones. Indeed, if we ſeriouſly reflected on the conſequences, a ſtop would be put to it altogether, by a reſolution of the people of Scotland, to drink nothing but home-brewed malt liquors; for I am certain, beſides the money ſuch a reſolution would keep in the country, the advantage of which muſt be apparent to every one, that our own brewers are capable to afford better drink, for the ſame money, than the Engliſh can poſſibly do; and that for two reaſons; *firſt*, Becauſe they pay juſt double the duty for their malt which we do for ours; and, *ſecondly*, Becauſe they pay at leaſt five times the price for their coals. These are the two principal articles conſumed in the brewing buſineſs; and, when we poſſeſs ſuch great advantages over our neighbours in theſe, as well as ſeveral others which might be mentioned, it ſurely requires little argument to convince any ſenſible man, that we may be ſupplied with better and more wholeſome drink at home, than any we can import from England.

I might mention many inſtances to prove the truth of this aſſertion, from Edinburgh, Glaſgow, Dundee, Leith, and other places; but ſhall only take notice of one at preſent; and that is, Mr Hugh Bell of this city. That gentleman occupies a moſt extenſive brewery, and, I think, I ſhall not fall under the cenſure of having an improper partiality for the manufactures of my own country, if I aver, that no brewer

in

in Great Britain can poſſibly furniſh better liquors, of the different kinds and prices, than he does. This gentleman does not confine himſelf to one ſpecies. He brews ſmall beer, of a very excellent quality, indeed; which, if properly taken care of, will keep throughout the year, and is very little inferior to what we are furniſhed with, in many public houſes, under the appellation of *London porter*. It is a very clean wholeſome drink, and private families may ſupply themſelves with it at a trifle more than a penny the bottle. He likewiſe brews ſtrong ale and beer of various kinds. I believe, indeed, he has not yet attempted the porter; but, what ſtrengthens my argument greatly, *viz.* That the brewers and every other manufacturer in this country, are capable to equal, if not to excel thoſe of any other, is this, Mr Bell brews ale and beer, in imitation of ſuch liquors brewed in the moſt famous towns in England, and from whence they take their names, to as great perfection as in theſe very towns; nay, I believe I ſhould not exceed the truth, if I ſaid greater, as Mr Bell's ale and beer is generally preferred to theirs at the foreign markets.

Theſe being facts which cannot be controverted, I ſhould be glad to know, in what conſiſts the grand and inexplicable myſtery of brewing Porter with equal ſucceſs? I think I have accounted for it already, when I ſaid, it was entirely owing to the brewers not getting proper encouragement, by which they were diſabled from carrying it on to that extent which is neceſſary. I believe I might add as a conſequence, or rather as the cauſe itſelf, the numerous Porter clubs in this city, who will not taſte any Porter brewed by their own countrymen, though they can give no better reaſon for ſuch refuſal, than that it is *Scots*.

Theſe clubs are compoſed, in a great meaſure, of merchants and mechanics. I would therefore beg leave to aſk them how they would reliſh it, ſhould the Noblemen and Gentlemen of property withdraw their buſineſs from them, becauſe they were Scots merchants, Scots wrights, Scots ſhoemakers, and ſo forth, of every other profeſſion? What reflections would they not have, and how highly would they be offended, to be told, that none of them underſtood their trades ſo well as foreigners?—This, however, is the treatment theſe very gentlemen give to the Woollen Manufacturers, and the Brewers of Scotland; but how highly injurious, as well as unjuſt, they are, when applied to them, muſt appear evident to every one who has ſo much the love of his country at heart, as to make uſe of their commodities; and, I humbly apprehend, no character, however exalted, need be aſhamed to do ſo.

I cannot conclude this Section, without mentioning, to the honour of the gentlemen, merchants, &c. of Glaſgow, Dundee, and ſeveral other towns, that they give all encouragement to their own Porter, and every other article manufactured among themſelves; nor ſhould I forgive myſelf, were I to omit taking notice of the public ſpirited conduct of many of my fair country-women in this metropolis, who will admit no other Porter to their tables, but ſuch as is brewed in Scotland. In this they ſurely ſtudy the intereſts of their huſbands and families, as they ſave at leaſt a penny upon every bottle. They at the ſame time promote the intereſt of their country, by encouraging its manufactures. I hope ſo laudable and praiſe-worthy an example, will be followed by every miſtreſs of a family throughout Scotland. Their huſbands, ſurely, will never uſurp their natural province of managing within doors, eſpecially when they do it ſo much to the advantage of the family, as they undoubtedly will, in this reſpect, by following the above example. It may likewiſe have this further good effect; it may diveſt the huſband of the unnatural prejudice he has taken againſt Scots porter. In that caſe, the fair ſex will have the merit of eſtabliſhing a valuable manufacture in their country, which I hope, for their own honour, they will take every opportunity in their power to accompliſh.

SECTION

SECTION V.

Of the unhappy diſputes which have for ſome time ſubſiſted between GREAT BRITAIN *and her* AMERICAN COLONIES.

THERE has been ſo much written and ſpoken upon the ſubject of American affairs, that I ſhould ſcarce have troubled the reader with any thing upon them in this place, had it not been to undeceive the Public, who have been groſsly impoſed upon by thoſe who are fond of the name of *Patriots* in our neighbouring kingdom, with regard to the many advantages Great Britain enjoyed from her trade with America.

I think it will be no very difficult matter to ſhow, that theſe wonderful advantages, which our patriots would have us believe reſulted from the American trade, has centered chiefly among themſelves, and that they are obliged to Great Britain entirely, for trade and every other bleſſing they enjoy.

As facts will more effectually make this appear, than all the oratory and ſophiſtry of a Chatham, a Burke, or a Barre, I beg leave to lay a few of theſe before the public.

Great Britain, to encourage them to clear the country of thoſe woods, which totally covered America, gave a bounty, and ſtill continues it, on all their fir and pine timber, fit for maſts, yards, bowſprits, &c. of 20 s. ſterling for each ton of 40 cubick feet, cuſtomary girt meaſure, which is equal to 6 d. every ſolid foot.

The bounty on their hemp and flax is no leſs than 6 l. *per* ton.

For every barrel of tar, made in the ordinary manner, 6 s. *per* barrel; each barrel to contain 31 gallons Engliſh meaſure.

For tar made by particular directions, 10 s. *per* barrel.

For every barrel of pitch, 2 s. 6 d. *per* barrel.

For every barrel of turpentine, 3 s. 9 d. *per* barrel.

For every pound of Indigo, if but half the value of that made by the French, 6 d. *per* pound, Engliſh weight.

When we conſider what great premiums theſe are, and how much they have contributed towards the improvement

of that wild uncultivated country, I may with great truth ſay, that the money paid by the inhabitants of this kingdom has done the whole that is done. After all this is allowed them, when their goods come to market, we pay the full market price; and I am certain, the value of the bounties paid will almoſt purchaſe goods of the ſame ſpecies and quality in Ruſſia, Sweden, Norway, and other parts of Europe, Indigo excepted; and the bounty of 6d per lib. is a very high bounty, and a great encouragement to raiſe it.

Notwithſtanding theſe bounties and encouragements, it is well known that the Americans carry on an illicit trade with the Weſt Indies, as well as with the Dutch, French, and Spaniards. Even this does not ſatisfy them. They go further in cheating the mother country. They carry on a great ſmuggling trade with many ports in Europe. Thoſe which come within my own knowledge, I ſhall now mention; they are, Archangel, Peterſburgh, Riga, Hamburgh, Amſterdam, Rotterdam, Dunkirk, &c. At times they call at ſome ports in Great Britain, and clear out part of their cargoes for our own plantations; but the part that is liable to high duties is cleared for St Euſtatia, or ſome free port in the Weſt Indies; by which means they deprive the revenue of theſe duties, while all the commodities are landed in our own ſettlements.

One would think, after ſuch evaſive ſchemes to rob the Mother Country, the Americans would find few if any advocates for them in the Britiſh ſenate. Theſe honourable gentlemen, however, who are fond of the name of *Patriot* and which is very liberally beſtowed upon them by the multitude in our neighbouring kingdom, with a degree of effrontery, not eaſy to be accounted for, hold forth, that the Americans pay large ſums in duties and exciſe, to the revenue, for the goods they take from us.

The beſt anſwer to theſe gentlemen's falſe and fallacious arguments, as I before hinted, are facts. Some of theſe I will ſubmit to the public; from which it will appear how little the revenue is benefited by the boaſted importation of the Americans from Great Britain. In this view, I muſt inform theſe gentlemen, as they ſeem not to have known it before, that the Americans pay no duty on any neceſſary or conveniency of life, taken from Great Britain, which we ſee fall very heavy upon ourſelves.—I ſhall here enumerate ſuch as at preſent occur to me.

The duties are drawn back, by the exporter, on all malt liquors, and ſpirits made in Great Britain, as well as the bottles

bottles which contain them—on all glaſs—on leather, however manufactured——on cordage made from foreign hemp——on ſoap, candles, ſalt, paper, vellum, cards, ſtarch, gold and ſilver lace, and many other articles.—Almoſt the whole duties, paid on foreign linen, are drawn back, and bounties given on moſt of our own made linen and canvaſs, equal to all the duties paid on ſoap, pot, pearl, wood and weed aſhes, made uſe of in bleaching and whitening the ſame.——From this it muſt appear, that, as the Americans are altogether exempted from land tax, they can live at one half the expence it muſt coſt our poor labourers, and indeed all claſſes of people in this country.

I am fully perſuaded, that the inhabitants of the city of Edinburgh, and port of Leith, pay more duty and exciſe annually, than all America does to the revenue of Great Britain. I can therefore ſee no reaſon that we ſhould pay the army and navy for their protection, if they will not contribute equally. That we ſhould be ſaddled with near two millions annually, to pay the intereſt of money borrowed on their account, to keep them from being ſcalped, or drove out of all their boaſted free country, into the Atlantic, appears to me, and, I dare ſay, to every impartial inhabitant in South or North Britain, extremely hard and unjuſt. How can we ever expect to leſſen the public debts, or get free of theſe taxes on ſalt, leather, and malt liquors, which, in a particular manner, affect the poor, if we are to pay the American debts as well as our own? Let them pay 25 s. annually, each individual, as we do, raiſe it as they pleaſe; but let this nation have it to eaſe numbers of her tradeſmen, manufacturers, porters, and labouring people of every denomination. The Americans have good land at ſixpence per acre, for which our honeſt farmers pay at the rate of 20 s. beſides the numberleſs taxes under which this country at preſent labours. The goods and manufactures we ſend to America are paid us in their own produce. We ſeldom or never get ſpecie from them; that they employ elſewhere, to carry on their clandeſtine trade.

From theſe facts it would appear, that we are not ſo much indebted to the American trade as our patriots would have us believe, and their ungratitude now, in attempting at independency, muſt be proportionally heightened.

It has been ſaid, that we in this country, have no *merit*, either in the *diſcovery* or *conqueſt* of them. It is our ſiſter kingdom England, which has the ſole merit of both. In conſequence of the Union, however, we came to have an equal ſhare with them in their trade and commerce to theſe ſettlements;

ſettlements; and, ſince that period, we have done our part to people, protect, and ſupport them.

A great deal has been thrown out as to their charters. By what authority did they hold theſe charters? Did theſe charters defend them from the encroachments of the French and Indians, who drove them out of all the faſt holds they had in the back ſettlements; and, would have drove the whole of them into the Atlantic, had it not been for the troops from Great Britain? I had almoſt ſaid, from the *Highlands of Scotland*; for *they* moſt undoubtedly conquered America, more than it was done in Germany. Lord Chatham, when he wanted to pay compliments to his own abilities, as prime miniſter, could not help bringing thoſe hardy and intrepid race of men to his aid. "Much, ſays he, neglected in the war before laſt, they (i. e. the *Highlanders*) had nigh overturned the ſtate; yet theſe very men, in the late war, I brought to combat on your ſide: They ſerved with fidelity as they fought with valour, and conquered for you in every part of the world; and in no part were they more ſerviceable than in North America."

How did the North Americans behave under Braddock? The time is not ſo diſtant but moſt of us will remember, what a deſpicable figure they made, both in the field, and in ſupplying the troops, ſent not only to preſerve their country, but themſelves from being ſcalped. Truſting to their ſupport, and to ſave them from perdition, how many of our brave countrymen loſt their lives? among others, a Sir Peter Halket, an ornament to his country, and to mankind. I had the honour to be known to Sir Peter; his life was of more value than many Americans. Now, however, the time is come, that they have forgot all theſe moſt eſſential ſervices done them; ſervices that have coſt this nation at leaſt the blood of 15,000 good men, and 20,000,000 l. of good ſterling money; and, when parliament taxes an article of luxury or effeminacy, of no real uſe, I mean *Tea*, what a noiſe do they make? Would to God that all our taxes were laid on that deſtructive, mean, inſignificant article, and taken off the neceſſaries of life! Happy would it then be for this country. Let thoſe who drink tea, pay for it; and on condition the duties were taken off ſalt and leather, of which the poor pay almoſt the whole, I heartily wiſh it were at 30 s. per pound.

The way and manner the people in Boſton took to diſappoint Government of raiſing this duty, is indeed without precedent. No ſooner it is brought into port, than they make a formal attack upon it; as if the tea was to come into their houſes,

houſes, and to levy the tax of itſelf. Had they allowed the tea to have been landed, and ſuffered it to rot before they would uſe or purchaſe it, they would have acted like rational men: Or, if it was rotten before it came to hand, as I have heard ſome giddy-headed people ſay, why buy it, or have any thing to do with it? The Eaſt India company was not to oblige or force them to purchaſe their goods. But to allow a lawleſs banditti to commit piracy in open ſun ſhine, and not to endeavour, by every means, to oppoſe them, was acquieſcing in their crime. Had I been maſter of the ſhip the tea was on board, with my ten Scots boys at my back, (and I am no fighting man) each of us ſhould have ſhot our man, before they had taken up the hatches, if we ſhould have been cut to pieces in the end. A bill of loading is a ſacred writing. The ſhip-maſter obliges himſelf to deliver his cargo, *ſea hazard excepted.* As there was no war, they were pirates who preſumed to touch his cargo; and as ſuch they ſhould have been treated by the ſhip-maſter, and the inhabitants of Boſton. If, therefore, the Boſtonians did not uſe their utmoſt endeavours to prevent them from an open violation of the laws of every country, and to ſecure the perſons of the pirates, they ought to pay all the coſt of the goods, and every expence and damage incurred. Were the inhabitants of Edinburgh and Leith tamely to look on, and allow a lawleſs mob to go on board a ſhip in Leith harbour, or in the road of Leith, and ſuffer the cargo to be taken out and deſtroyed before their faces, without doing the utmoſt in their power to prevent it, they would, by the law, be obliged to pay the damages, and undergo a ſevere cenſure from their country and all good men.

I have been twice in America, and traded conſiderably to different parts of it, but not to advantage, as I could not get payments. I have, at preſent, ſeveral hundred pounds due there, which I would willingly give a right to for as many hundred pence. And I verily believe, were the Americans to balance accompts with this country, all their boaſted wealth and property would not diſcharge the juſt and lawful debts due by them to the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland.

So far back as the 31ſt of December 1774, I propoſed the following plan for reducing the Americans to obedience: Take off the bounties given upon the importation of their goods; let them carry none to any market but to Britain, Ireland, and the Weſt India iſlands, our own property, and no other; and, to prevent them from trading with the French, Spaniſh, or any other ſettlements, let them go under convoy of our men of war, and take ſailing orders; in which let the

owners

owners of the ſhips and cargoes be mentioned, and the bill of loading be affixed to the ſailing orders; the ſhips to pay all attention, as under convoy in time of war, as to the ſignals, rendezvous, &c.

Ten frigates of 32 guns, ten ſhips of 20 guns, and twenty ſloops of 14 guns each, will do the buſineſs, and employ our ſeamen and ſoldiers. Let each ſhip have only 2-3ds of her complement of ſailors; let the other 1-3d, to make up the full complement, be ſoldiers, which may be ſtationed thus:

Two Sloops, 14 guns, at Savannah in Georgia.

Two Ships, 20 guns, and two ſloops, 14 each, at Charles-Town, South Carolina.

Two ſloops at Wilmington, Cape Fear, North Carolina.

One ſhip 20 guns, one ſloop, at Smert, Sound, Albemarle.

Two frigates, two ſloops, Cape Henry, and Cape Charles, Chiſwick's Bay, Virginia.

One frigate, two ſloops, Maryland.

Two frigates, two ſloops, Pennſylvania, Philadelphia.

Two frigates, two ſhips, 20 guns, three ſloops, Long Iſland and Newport.

Three frigates, five ſhips 20 guns, four ſloops, at Boſton and in the Maſſachuſetts Bay, Salem, &c. Or in ſuch manner as the Lords of the Admiralty ſhall think moſt for the good of the ſervice, and will moſt ſurely contribute ſpeedily to bring theſe ungrateful Americans to their duty, and their own good; I had almoſt ſaid, their *ſalvation*. Remove the whole military, except ſuch as have been always employed in their forts and gariſons; for the money ſpent by the troops feeds them, and ſpirits them up to rebellion.

To prevent the neceſſity of a convoy going to Great Britain, let the maſters, owners, and merchants, who ſhip the goods, find ſecurity in double the value of ſhip and cargo, that they ſhall really and truly land them in ſome part of Great Britain or Ireland, (ſea-hazard excepted) and no where elſe, or forfeit their bond to the public; and, to relieve the bond, they ſhould have two certificates, under the hands of the collector, comptroller, and ſurveyor of the port where the cargo is diſcharged, as to the true performance, ſo as they can tranſmit one by firſt ſhips, and keep the other to be brought over to America by themſelves, to relieve their bond, or cancel it.

Every man of property, obſtructing or flying in the face of the laws made by Great Britain, ſhould forfeit his whole eſtate and effects, as guilty of high treaſon againſt the ſtate; and all merchants and others, forfeit their goods and chattles, and their perſons be ſent home to the country from which they or their forefathers originally came; for there is not

one

one in ten of them who was either himſelf, or his forefathers, born in Great Britain: They are moſtly made up of German emigrants, French refugees, and convicts of all nations tranſported from Great Britain and Ireland, who never could get bread in their own country: yet they, forſooth, muſt boaſt what their forefathers did to ſupport our conſtitution: For ſhame! that Britain ſhould be deluded by ſuch a hotchpotch medley of foreign enthuſiaſtic madmen; who, whilſt they throw dirt at the family that gave them moſt of their charters, praiſe Lord Chatham for ruining them, and hurting the mother country. At the ſame time, they rail at Lord Bute for making a peace that gave them a quiet poſſeſſion of all that vaſt country, by getting the French to give up every place in North America to the Crown of Great Britain. I was in London at the time the peace was in agitation. I had the honour of being well acquainted with Sir Henry Erſkine, the Right Honourable James Oſwald, and many people in authority at that period. I have often been aſked, what the opinion of the merchants was. I always told them, the acquiſition of all North America, upon our back ſettlements, was the great object. I own, my worthy friend Sir H. Erſkine foreſaw things which did not, at that time, occur to me; he often ſaid, "Theſe people are turbulent. It would be better to leave part of Canada to the French, to keep them in a proper ſubordination." I have even heard ſome very ſenſible merchants on the Change of London ſay ſo; but by far the greateſt number were for the terms which were agreed to; and a glorious peace it was.

Theſe inflammatory letters, from the general Congreſs to the people of Great Britain, and to their friends and fellow-ſubjects of Quebec, are wrote upon the moſt fallacious and baſe principles; not a word of truth from beginning to end, except what they quote from my late moſt worthy correſpondent, the great Baron Monteſquieu. Had they a trial at his court and conſtitution, or the King of Pruſſia's, that Proteſtant hero, they would ſoon be brought to themſelves, and to good manners. In ſhort, theſe deteſtable letters are not conceived in the ſtyle of merchants, by whom only they ought to have been wrote; but appear to be the productions of ſome baniſhed Engliſh or Iriſh attorney, or limb of the law, who has baniſhed himſelf from this country; or by ſome of the vermin of the clergy, who infeſt that deluded country and people.

I took the liberty of tranſmitting to Lord North, a copy of this Plan; and at the ſame time uſed the freedom of writing my opinion to his Lordſhip on the ſubject, and of offering my advice, as a private perſon, and a friend

friend to the mother country, in what manner the Americans might be brought to a ſenſe of their duty, and allegigiance to their parent ſtate, with the leaſt prejudice to either of the contending parties. This I did not think prudent to publiſh to the world at the time. Indeed, ſuch a ſtep would have entirely deſtroyed the very intention of the writer, had his Lordſhip adopted any part of the plan propoſed, which was not the caſe. The outlines of my letter was, To impreſs all the ſeamen, belonging to the American veſſels, from the Cabin boy to the Maſter, and to rate them on board the ſhips of war ſent to block up their ports, at the higheſt wages any of them ever received, when employed in the merchants ſervice. To land no troops at any of the ports ſo blocked up; as the money ſpent by the troops would enable the Americans the longer to continue their reſiſtance, after a ſtop was put to their trade, and alſo might be productive of much bloodſhed, which has already happened, and, it is much to be feared, will be greatly encreaſed, before any accommodation takes place. The reaſon why I was ſolicitous to have all the ſeamen in America impreſſed was this: Though I have the higheſt eſteem for that uſeful and brave ſet of men, yet long experience amongſt them has convinced me, that they would rather do miſchief than be idle. If I might be allowed a conjecture, I could almoſt venture to ſay, that the repulſe which the King's troops met with at Lexington and Bunker's Hill, was occaſioned chiefly by ſo many honeſt induſtrious fellows being thrown out of employment. If any future ſkirmiſh ſhall happen, which it is more than probable will be the caſe, I am much afraid, that theſe poor deſtitute ſeamen, who might have been employed, with advantage to themſelves and their country, on board of the ſhips of war, will, as the caſe now ſtands, prove the moſt intrepid enemies which our troops will meet with in the field; whereas, if theſe ſeamen had been on board our ſhips of war, they would have had much influence in making the merchants and others come into reaſonable terms. I am ſenſible, that the impreſſing of the ſeamen may be objected to, as being againſt law. But, in anſwer to this, it may be obſerved, that neceſſity has no law; and that it is always cuſtomary to impreſs ſeamen in the time of war.

From the proceedings of the houſes of Parliament, I obſerve, that a plan, ſimilar, in the moſt eſſential parts, to the one above recited, will now be adopted. Whether it would not have been more effectual twelve months ago, it would be preſumption in me to decide upon. That I muſt leave to wiſer heads to determine.

The

The commencement of the Americans intentions to throw off the allegiance of Great Britain, are not of yeſterday. They did not even begin with the Stamp-act, as many people have imagined, though I will readily allow, the repeal of that act gave them a boldneſs which they had not formerly aſſumed, and led them to imagine, that Great Britain was unable to do any thing contrary to the inclinations of America.

The latter end of Sir Robert Walpole's adminiſtration, in the year 1739, gave birth to all that has happened ſince. The *Patriotic* party of that day, headed by Sir John Bernard, a very worthy man, but who undoubtedly had been impoſed upon, played the ſame game which our preſent *Patriots* are attempting, though, I truſt, with better ſucceſs. They forced the miniſter to break through the act of navigation, and to allow the Americans to export their *enumerated goods*, as they were pleaſed to call them, *viz.* all their rice, wheat, barley, Indian corn, and all ſorts of corns, fiſh, &c. &c. to any port in Europe, ſouth of Cape Finiſterre. Before that period, trade was carried on with peace and quietneſs, and a certain profit to Great Britain, as well as great advantage to America. But no ſooner was this door opened, than the Americans commenced ſmugglers. It pointed out a way for them to throw off all connection in trade with the mother country, whoſe fleets, at the ſame time, were their protection. With the Britiſh flag flying, and their Mediterranean paſs in their cabins, to ſcreen them from all the piratical ſtates, they carried on trade with more ſafety than any other nation in Europe. But, ſay this *grateful* people, we are not to pay any proportion of the expence neceſſary for the ſupport of that fleet; that Gibraltar, and that Port Mahon, which afford us this protection. Let old England, and poor Scotland, pay for our ſafety; but let us reap the profits of their trade and commerce.

The Britiſh trade in the Mediterranean, before the 1739, the time when the *patriotic* plan above mentioned took place, was much more extenſive than ever it has been ſince. The cauſe is obvious. The corn and fiſh, alone, were great articles in point of freight, and gave bread to our own ſailors, whom we can always depend upon for manning our fleets. Can we truſt to the Americans for this neceſſary piece of duty?— No!——If we repoſe any confidence in them, they may perhaps point their guns againſt us, as they do at preſent from their floating batteries.

It is ſurely high time, therefore, for Great Britain to encourage her own navigation. Let the Americans be put on the ſame footing, with regard to trade, which they enjoyed

in the 1735. Let their exports and imports be through the channel of Great Britain, Ireland, and our Weſt India ſettlements; then, and not till then, will they pay us for what they take. For many years paſt they have taken our goods, turned them into money, and with that money gone to Holland, Hamburgh, France, and other countries, where they purchaſe their manufactures, while they allowed ours to remain unpaid.

Were theſe matters properly adjuſted, and a ſettlement of the preſent differences effected, in a manner ſuitable to the honour and dignity of Great Britain, Scotland might carry on a trade with America, advantageous to both countries.

We could furniſh them with Oſnaburghs, Checks, Coarſe Linens, at or under 14d. per yard, Handkerchiefs, and common Calicoes, on as good terms as they could be ſupplied with them from the Continent; for the reaſons I have given in a former part of this work, we cannot indeed compare with them in the finer ſorts of linen.

All ſorts of Woollen goods we can unqueſtionably furniſh them on better terms than any other country in Europe; with Cloths from the coarſeſt Flannel to the fineſt Superfine: with Hats, from 10d. to 30s. a-piece; with Stockings, from 6d. to 10s. the pair; and, with every other article in the Woollen branch proportionally cheap.

Shoes, and every thing made from leather, we are acknowledged to be equally expert in, with the manufacturers of any other country, and can afford to ſell them at as low prices.

Chimney grates we ſtand unrivalled in; nor, I believe, will any other nation compete with us in any wares manufactured from Iron.

Upon the whole: When the Americans come to their ſenſes, they will find it for their intereſt, as well as their ſafety and conveniency, to ſtrengthen the bond of friendſhip with the Mother Country; and to promote her trade and manufactures. Let them conſider how much the flag, which hitherto has protected them, would be deſpiſed and torn to pieces by every petty Prince, were it not for the Britiſh Lyon. Even the king of Pruſſia, that little maritime Monarch, could fit out as many ſhips of war at Embden, Stetin and Koningsburgh, as would deſtroy all the *great* North American trade in two years.

SECTION

SECTION VI.

Of TRADE *in general, interſperſed with ſuch obſervations as the author thinks, if duly weighed and conſidered, may be productive of good effects to this country.*

THE preceding Sections of this work were taken up in a great meaſure on the manufactures of Scotland. This laſt I reſerved for ſaying a few words on trade in general, and ſuch obſervations as might occur, whether on trade or any other ſubject. I ſhall begin with trade.

The ſcheme by which Sir Matthew Decker propoſed to raiſe the ſupply, in place of the preſent mode, was ſurely a wiſe plan, and, if adopted, would ſave ſome hundred thouſands to the nation annually, and add 30,000 men to the ſtate, who are now employed in collecting, ſurveying, and herding the traders and ſmugglers. His ſcheme puts an end to all ſmuggling. And as, in fact, the land-holders, and people of property, in the end, pay almoſt all the duties of cuſtoms and exciſe, it would be better for them, on the whole, and much more convenient for the merchant; for, by the preſent way of levying the cuſtoms, the man that deals to any extent in foreign trade, muſt have a great command of money, otherwiſe he can import little, the duties being often double the prime coſt of the goods abroad; and theſe duties muſt be paid before you can ſee your goods. This throws the importer always largely in advance, and requires three ſtocks to carry on trade, where one would do, were the duties taken off; that is, L. 1000 would carry on as much as L. 3000 will at preſent.

There never was, in my time, a miniſter who has paid greater regard and attention to the commerce and trade of Great Britain than the preſent Lord North: He has ſhown a ſteadineſs and firmneſs of every thing for the good of King and country. But, at preſent, how far ſuch a plan can take place, is uncertain. I know moſt branches of the revenue are appropriated to pay the intereſt of certain loans, and it muſt take time to get the principals paid. But, with great

ſubmiſſion

ſubmiſſion to the wiſdom of parliament, I think the duties ſhould be conſiderably lowered, particularly on French goods, which, at preſent, are next to a prohibition. The long enmity and jealouſy betwixt the Engliſh and French, has kept them at a great diſtance from one another in point of trade; it is high time to remove it: There are no people more honeſt and eaſy in their dealings in commerce, (the Engliſh excepted); I have dealt largely with them, and have always found them ſo. I have been taken their priſoner at ſea; they uſed me with the greateſt humanity and hoſpitality. I had the honour to correſpond with the great Baron Monteſquieu. As a merchant, his name adds much to the reputation of the profeſſion. He was an honour to mankind. I had great pleaſure in dealling with him His wines were excellent, and at a moderate price. If we would open trade with the French, by reducing the duties on their wines and brandies, I am perſuaded they will meet us half-way, and allow our manufactures to be imported into France, on equal terms. If this ſhould take place, it would moſt effectually lower the price of corn, and all the neceſſaries of life, and afford us good and wholeſome ſpirits; for in all our northern countries ſome ſpirits are abſolutely neceſſary; the more moderately uſed the better: But, in this cold climate, I have ſeen the good effects of a little at a time, both by ſea and land. And, as we muſt have ſpirits, is it not better to get them of wholeſome quality, and pay them with our manufactures, than to diſtil two millions of quarters of our beſt grain, which is the cauſe of keeping it always ſo high? and, if good plentiful crops happen, the exporting your corn is of much greater conſequence to the kingdom than making it into ſpirits. I can eaſy ſee what will be objected; the revenue of exciſe and cuſtoms will ſuffer. I think not; for, if the duties are low, there will be no ſmuggling; the importation of wines and brandy would be immenſe. Were it one fourth of what the French wine duty is at preſent, and one third of what the brandy exciſe is, the revenue would draw double of what it now does, and anſwer every purpoſe for which theſe duties were laid on. If theſe meaſures were to take place, they would extend our navigation greatly. The Dutch and Swedes are at preſent the greateſt carriers of wine, brandy, oil, &c. from the ſouth of France, Havre de Grace, Dunkirk, and all the ports in the channel. I myſelf had ſeveral ſhips employed in the freight way, from and to the ports mentioned, and cleared money on my ſhips ſo employed. But I paid, as all our ſhips muſt, five livres to the ſtate for each ton the ſhip meaſured. If theſe livres were taken off, as they certainly would, if we had our tarriff of trade

ſettled

ſettled, the Britiſh ſhips would get the whole of theſe freights, and a very great object it is. The preference is always given to our ſhips over the Mediterranean; and for a ſenſible reaſon. We loſe fewer ſhips, in proportion to our number employed, than any nation in the world; and beſides, our ſailors are more honeſt. In all my practice, (and I have freighted ſome hundreds of ſhips,) I never had a package broke up, nor a caſk broached or pierced, or any ſort of embezzelment on my cargoes of goods, when on board our own Britiſh veſſels. Other nations are not ſo free of this vice. Our ſailors are undoubtedly the moſt honeſt-hearted, open, friendly fellows in Europe, and deſpiſe a dirty action, either at ſea or on ſhore. This trade would encreaſe their numbers, who are the great bulwarks of our nation.

Poſtlethwait ſays, the coaſting and foreign trade to London alone employs 100,000 ſeamen in time of peace. I ſuppoſe them to be only 75,000. The navy 25,000, ſeamen in time of peace. All the reſt of our coaſting and foreign trade, in the whole of the ports of Great Britain and Ireland, 130,000. Theſe numbers are formidable, and the more ſo, as you can have a great part of them on board your fleets, upon an emergency. Your homeward coaſting trade being ſo extenſive, enabled this nation, now ſo happily connected, and unanimous in their operations, to equip a fleet in four months, ſuperior to what France and Spain could do in two years. Do you think that ſo wiſe a nation as France will chuſe to quarrel with you at theſe times? they know too well the difference now, to what it was ſome years ago; laſt war convinced them of the truth of it. They muſt conſider how many brave hardy ſailors and ſoldiers, came from this country, to fight, conquer, or die with their brethren the Engliſh; inſtead of being, as formerly, ſo imprudent and impolitic as to take ſide with the French, upon all occaſions, againſt England. This makes a mighty difference in the balance of war. And I hope we ſhall never be on other terms with the Engliſh nation than we are at preſent, and were all laſt war. In this ſituation, no power in Europe can have miniſters of ſo little penetration but muſt ſee the conſequence of making war with a brave and united kingdom. Small as the ſpace is that Great Britain and Ireland occupies in the ocean; yet we have three ſea ports to one, more than all France and Spain together. This is our great nurſery for ſeamen.

Laſt war, you had 100,000 men on board his Majeſty's fleets and privateers, with the King's commiſſion, to cruiſe againſt your enemies. At that very time you had 8000 merchant ſhips carrying on the trade of Great Britain and Ireland, who

rode

rode in ſafety, and triumphant in every quarter of the globe. What muſt foreigners think of this nation, that could carry on ſuch extenſive commerce, and take every place they attempted, and deſtroy every fleet of the enemy they met with? Will they be raſh in making war with that nation?

I can foreſee another objection will be ſtarted, as to the rum from our plantations, and Weſt-India iſlands. Why not let their rum be imported at brandy-duty, or a trifle under, though they deſerve but little favour from the mother-country? they are diſobedient children. One thing, I well know, that, if they can get goods at St Euſtatia, Surinam, or at any of the free ports in the Weſt-Indies, on equal terms, or a trifle lower, they will never take ours. This country therefore ſhould take meaſures for their own preſervation, to keep their proviſions and neceſſaries of life at moderate prices, ſo as to carry on our manufactures, and find a market for them, independent of theſe wrong-headed people. This ſtep, among others, would bring great advantages, and humble the pride and haughtineſs of the Americans, who, I have no doubt, would have thrown themſelves into the hands of any power in Europe, if they could have found one ſo raſh as themſelves. But, as I have before ſaid, the princes of Europe are too wiſe to embark in ſuch Don Quixote ſchemes as they have formerly done, againſt ſo great a nation. I again ſay, that if we could ſettle proper conditions and articles with France, and trade with them, as we do with the ungrateful Portugueſe, both nations would profit by the bargain, and could keep the balance of Europe in their own hands; and, ſure I am, we would increaſe our wealth, and health, more by this than all the continental connections we have. Times are greatly changed, and that rivetated antipathy the Engliſh had to that nation ſhould be forgotten, as we in Scotland have done with the Engliſh. We heartily deſpiſe the illiberal, indecent reflections thrown out by the diſappointed patriots, well knowing, that the Engliſh, ninety-nine out of a hundred, look on us as their brethren, and would riſque their lives and fortunes for us, as we have done for them; and we will be always ready to do ſo, on every occaſion, when called for by King and Parliament. We love freedom and liberty, and enjoy it more than theſe flaming diſſatisfied patriots, whoſe great aim is to get into places and power, and then we ſhould be under fine management; but we have an old ſaying in this country, *Better keep well as make well.*

I would beg leave likewiſe to ſuggeſt, that, were the legiſlature to aboliſh all officers fees at the water-ſide, and give

give the land and coaſt-waiters more ſalary, it would be ſerving the revenue, and aſſiſting the fair trader. Theſe fees, &c. paid at the water-ſide are a great encouragement to the unfair trader, and a great loſs to the merchant, who is not; nay, that practice makes the officer inſult the man who imports fairly, and he cannot get equal diſpatch as the other who pays high fees. It is to be hoped, at any rate, that all fees, within and without doors, will be taken off the Wool, and all materials wanted for that manufacture. The fees at preſent are very high on Wool, and Woollen goods going coaſt ways, and the officers very troubleſome. It will be of much conſequence to trade, if ſome regulations take place as to theſe fees, and the officers be ordered to do their duty without fee or reward, and to give all diſpatch at legal hours. Upon the whole, the revenue will never be honeſtly dealt with, nor the merchant well ſerved, while theſe officers have the diſpoſal of favours, and the public money, as they pleaſe, and to take ſuch liberties as are moſt ſhameful; as the merchant muſt pay, or put up with the abuſe that theſe people will oblige him to ſubmit to.

I have already noticed, that moſt of the towns and villages in Scotland, are extremely well ſituated for carrying on Trade and Manufactures, but none more ſo than thoſe in Eaſt Lothian, particularly the Woollen branch; it being a populous healthy country, having plenty of corn and wool, while water and coals can be had at ſmall expence.

There is one village, however, which I cannot omit mentioning here, as it did not fall properly to be treated of under any of my former Sections. The place I mean is Linton by Linton Bridge. The ſituation of this village is really beautiful, and might be made, at no great expence, a ſea port, capable of receiving veſſels from 50 to 80 tons. Two ſmall locks would enable ſhips of theſe burthens to come up to Linton Bridge, and lighters and ſuch craft could navigate to Haddington, the centre of the country. How great an advantage this would be to the proprietors of the lands, to the farmers, and all ranks of people, muſt at firſt ſight be obvious. It would leſſen the price of carriage of their corns, manufactures, and all kinds of produce, which they have occaſion to carry to market, and have the ſame effect upon the coal, lime, or any other goods or materials, which are neceſſary to be brought into the middle of that rich country. This water communication would likewiſe ſave the roads, by keeping many heavy carriages off them, and would tend greatly to reduce the number of horſes, which are found to be very burthenſome, as well to the Gentlemen as the Farmer. Whether this uſeful work ſhould be undertaken at the

expence of the proprietors of the lands in the environs, who would, in that caſe, be entitled to all the benefits reſulting from it; or, by the public, who might be reimburſed by laying on a ſmall tax on the ton of each veſſel employed in that trade, does not belong to me to determine. One thing is very certain, that were ſuch a plan adopted and carried into execution, it could not fail of being of great ſervice to that part of the country; nor do I imagine it would require any extraordinary exertion of public ſpirit to accompliſh it.

The Landholders at the Mouth of the Water of Tyne, might likewiſe add largely to their eſtates, were they to bank in their grounds on the ſea ſhore, as our allies the Dutch do. They have ſtill more ſea to encounter with, and deeper water, where they have added many thouſand acres of rich ground to their country, with nothing elſe than *ſtaick* and *rice*. Theſe materials, the people of this country, have juſt at hand; whereas the Hollanders have to bring them from places at many miles diſtance. The branches of the trees, bruſh-wood, and ſuch refuſe as comes from Tynningham foreſt, would do the buſineſs, and many hundred acres might be filled up in a few years with good ſoil fit for paſture or tillage. When a proper fence of ſtaick and rice is once fixed, it is ſurpriſing how ſoon it fills up at the back. Every ſtorm from the ſea throws over abundance of ſuch materials as feeds and firms it, and ſoon renders it ſolid ground. The ſalts with which theſe ſea weeds or ware abound, keeps the ground in good health for many years, and adds ſo much real wealth to the proprietor and his country. An acquiſition of this kind could not fail of affording great pleaſure to thoſe who carried ſuch a ſcheme into execution, as they thereby not only would have the merit of adding ſo many acres to their own property, which formerly was of no uſe to the country, but likewiſe might induce others, equally well ſituated for ſuch purpoſes, to follow their example. But, as ſome people may not be acquainted with what the Dutch call *ſtaick* and *rice*, it will be proper here to explain it. The *ſtaick* therefore, are large pieces of trees, which they drive far into the earth, at ſome diſtance from each other. The *rice* are a kind of twigs which they weave about the *ſtaick*, and make a ſort of net of the whole. This fence has been found by experience a greater preſervative from the encroachments of the ſea, than even bulwarks of ſtone. The former, yielding to the preſſure of the water, and receiving through the interſtices different kinds of ſea ware and rubbiſh, becomes a ſtrong and ſolid wall; while the latter, not giving way to ſuch impulſe, nor receiving any additional

ditional ſtrength from the ſea, is often carried away by its violence.

These undertakings, at the ſame time that they would be productive of riches to the proprietor and the country, would give employment to many induſtrious people. They alſo enjoy the ſame advantages with the fiſheries; for every foot of ground thus taken in, as well as every fiſh catched, is a real and ſubſtantial acquiſition, purchaſed at no expence whatever, but that of labour.

As the city of Edinburgh finds it very difficult to ſupport their Charity Work-houſe, I cannot here omit throwing out ſome hints for that purpoſe, which I had from a gentleman of large property, and who is univerſally eſteemed by all who have the honour of his acquaintance. He is a real friend to his country, and to Edinburgh in particular, as he reſides very near it. This gentleman, about twenty years ago, mentioned to the Lord Provoſt, a man whoſe memory will long be held in the higheſt eſtimation, that he apprehended, were the people in the Poors Houſe employed in picking, cleanſing, ſpinning, and manufacturing our wool to make flannels for the dead, and every other article neceſſary for burying, in a decent manner, all who are interred in the ſeveral church yards of Edinburgh and Leith, ſuch furniſhings would go a great length to defray the expence of that charitable inſtitution, and would be no tax on the inhabitants, as every thing could be furniſhed at the common price; and it was not doubted but that the Good Town, and all concerned, would give the ground to be broke upon the beſt terms, in order to encourage ſo public-ſpirited and charitable an undertaking. This propoſal, however agreeable it might be to my worthy political friend, could not then be carried into execution, from the oppoſition he ſaw he would meet with, from the deacons of crafts, undertakers, upholſterers, &c. &c. But times have greatly altered ſince that period, and I have now ſo good an opinion of the tradeſmen and dealers in Edinburgh at preſent, that I am hopeful, inſtead of throwing obſtructions in the way, they will lend their helping hand to bring the matter to a fair trial. Many ſchemes have been propoſed to ſupport the Charity Work-houſe, but none have been adopted. A law to eſtabliſh a poors rate, appears juſtly to be greatly againſt the inclinations of the inhabitants; and the yearly voluntary collections are diſagreeable to ſome and troubleſome to others. If the above ſcheme ſucceeds, and I can ſee no good reaſon why it ſhould not, it might be of ſervice to the whole country, as every pariſh in Scotland would naturally adopt the ſame plan. This would be literally ſupporting the living poor by

means of the dead; nor need thoſe employed in ſuch matters at preſent be deſtitute of work, as there are many other branches to which they could turn their thoughts and hands.

Having ſaid ſo much on improvements in general, I muſt now beg leave to offer a few obſervations on the attention which has been paid by ſome individvals, to the advancement of this deſirable object.

The author of *Queries by a Man of Quality*, very juſtly celebrates the conduct of ſeveral Engliſh ladies, who have ſpouſed Noblemen of this country, for the public ſpirit they have diſcovered in giving encouragement to the manufactures of that country which gave birth to their huſbands; nor, indeed, can they be ſufficiently applauded for it. Many ladies of our own country are bleſſed with the ſame ſpirit and benevolent diſpoſitions; and I flatter myſelf, from ſuch bright examples, their numbers will daily encreaſe. Out of numbers which might be mentioned, I ſhall only take notice of one Lady of Quality, worthy of imitation, whoſe place of reſidence is not a hundred miles removed from the Royal Palace of Holyrood-houſe. This Lady has a great deal of merit, in raiſing upon her Lord's eſtate, an excellent breed of ſheep, of the fine woolled kind, as well as all other ſorts of cattle, though in a very indifferent part of the country. This Lady has alſo variety of Woollen, Linen, Damaſks, &c. manufactured under her own inſpection, of excellent qualities.

In the ſame manner, from ladies of inferior quality, many might be mentioned worthy of imitation; but in this, as in the former inſtance, I ſhall confine myſelf to one, as a pattern to other ladies, who would wiſh to promote the real intereſts of their country. The lady I mean, is ſpouſe of a worthy citizen in an eaſtern burgh in Eaſt Lothian. The greateſt pleaſure ſhe enjoys is that of giving employment to a number of induſtrious people in her neighbourhood, in the woollen and other branches of buſineſs, and of relieving the poor by acts of benevolence and charity: nor is her huſband leſs aſſiduous in the ſame commendable work. He gives bread to hundreds, is an honour to his profeſſion; and a bleſſing to that part of the country where he reſides, as well as to that part of the coaſt where I drew my firſt breath.

To multiply inſtances of the ladies and gentlemen of this country, who deſerve to be held in the higheſt veneration for their public ſpirit, would be endleſs. They are daily encreaſing, and I hope will continue to do ſo, till this country is brought to that ſtate of improvement, in every branch of manufacture, of which its ſituation, in many reſpects, renders it ſo highly capable. We have had gentlemen of truly patriotic

triotic principles in former times. I hope the race are far from being extinguiſhed. Mr M'Leod of Cadboll was one of thoſe. An honour to his country; and, at the ſame time, ſo great an encourager of its manufactures, that, from his earlieſt years, he never wore that of any other country; as an inſtance of which, I muſt here mention an anecdote of that gentleman: Having come up to Edinburgh upon ſome private concerns, and ſtanding in need of a new hat, he enquired his man of buſineſs, whether there was any hat-makers in Edinburgh? To this he anſwered in the affirmative, and at the ſame time told him, that a parcel ſhould be immediately ſent, that he might take his choice of one. This offer, however, Mr M'Leod rejected, well knowing the many tricks which are practiſed upon ſuch occaſions, of paſſing off for Scots, what in reality was the manufacture of England. He behoved therefore to ſee the hatter himſelf, and waited with patience till he had made one for him according to his directions. Were all our countrymen to behave in this manner, our manufacturers would be in no danger of wanting employment. Indeed, ſuch a conduct is highly requiſite at this time, when ſo many tricks of this nature are daily practiſed by many of our ſhop-keepers. Thoſe, therefore, who wiſh to encourage the manufactures of their country, in order to avoid ſuch impoſitions, ſhould purchaſe from none but ſuch as advertiſe the commodities of it. One company in Edinburgh, and they are not the leaſt conſiderable in it, have already done ſo. There the public may be ſatisfied they will be ſupplied with real Scots cloths, as the company are concerned with more than one manufactory in that branch. I hope they will meet with that encouragement which every promoter of the intereſts of their country merits.

Notwithſtanding this tract has drawn out to a much greater length than I at firſt expected, yet many things are omitted, which I once intended to have taken notice of; particularly, with regard to the mines and minerals, of which this country is ſo abundantly ſtored, and from which ſo much riches may be expected. I likewiſe intended to have taken notice of the delightful appearance of the face of the country, from the many improvements made upon it by the noblemen and gentlemen of property, But theſe, for the reaſon already mentioned, I am under the neceſſity of deferring till ſome other opportunity.

One improvement, I cannot ommit taking notice of, in this place, as it is a new as well as a uſeful one, and if not properly ſupported at preſent, may for ever be loſt unto this country. I mean the Directory and Penny-Poſt, lately eſtabliſhed by Mr Peter Williamſon. A ſafe and ſpeedy

entercourſe

entercourſe of correſpondence between merchants is the moſt certain way of carrying on trade to advantage. I will, therefore, beg leave to mention, that no ſcheme projected by any perſon in Scotland, ſeems more calculated to effectuate this great purpoſe, than the Directory and Penny-Poſt, ſet on foot by Mr Williamſon, and I ſhould be ſorry, on that account, if proper encouragement were not given to it.

Before I conclude, I cannot help returning my moſt grateful acknowledgments to theſe Noblemen and Gentlemen who have been pleaſed to teſtify their approbation of the Letters which, fromt ime to time publiſhed to the world, on the manufactures and commerce of this country. The card which I ſome few days ago received, on this ſubject, from a Nobleman of the firſt diſtinction, and who has expended upwards of fifty thouſand pounds ſterling, upon improvements, in the neighbourhood of this city, is truly flattering; and I am happy that theſe Letters, which I meant entirely for the good of my country, have not been viewed in another light by thoſe who are its greateſt ornaments.

I have only to add, that however conſcious I am of the little merit this treatiſe poſſeſſes, in point of compoſition, I am hopeful the intention with which it was undertaken will plead its excuſe.

The Reader will excuse some errors in the printing, occasioned by the hurry of Publication

-+2

collated: [viii] + 292 pp.
incldg. Title &c.

ae